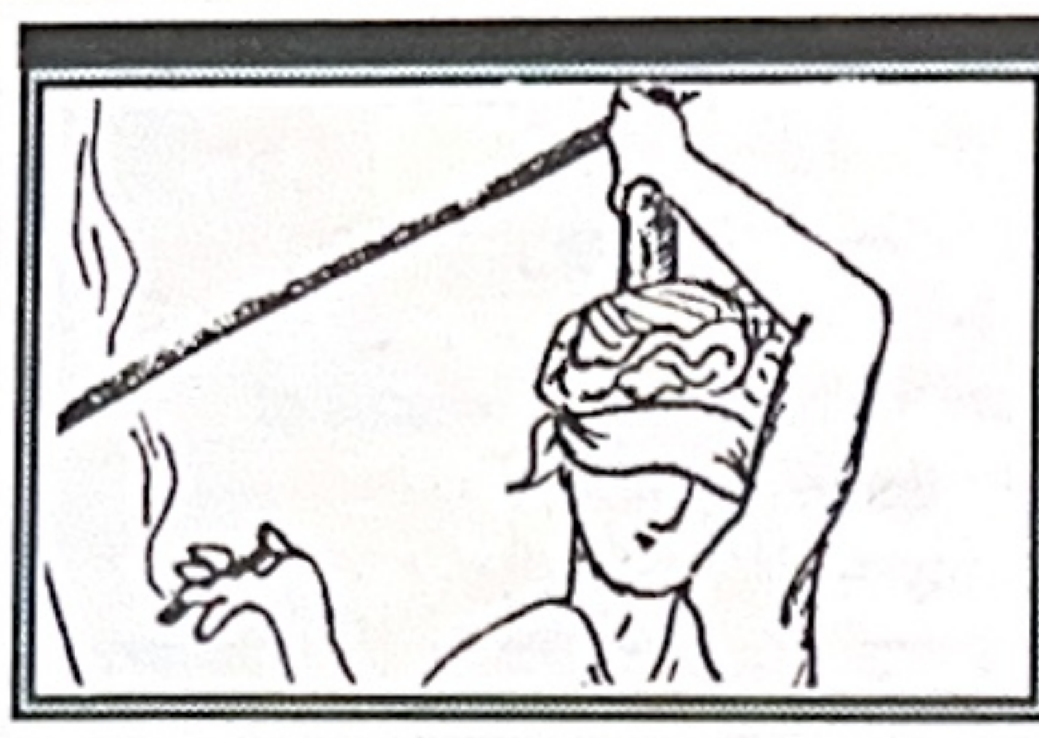

To smoke or not to smoke

Exploring the pros and cons of drug legalization in the U.S.

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Lending a helping hand

Service organizations allow students to be active in the community

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VOLUME 65· ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 15, 1994

SHAKERITE

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL · 15911 ALDERSYDE DRIVE · SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44120

Homeroom survey results support conference periods, Tutoring Center

BY LINDSEY WIGGINS

Staff Reporter

A recent survey distributed to homerooms gave students an opportunity to voice their opinions about certain programs, services and activities in the school.

The survey, which involved 789 students, was the idea of the School and Community Committee, made up of teachers, which felt that it was important to give students a say in school programs, according to science teacher and committee member Robert Sylak.

"The most important thing we can do is get students involved in school processes," Sylak said.

The survey found that 75 percent of students have after-school conferences with their teachers either daily, weekly or monthly, and 96 percent feel that the conference time is worth maintaining.

The Tutoring Center is important to 94 percent of the students, although 27 percent said they never use it, according to the survey.

Eighty-nine percent of the students surveyed said that the senior lounge and intramural sports are important, 83 percent support school-sponsored mixers and 77 percent are in favor of pep rallies.

While conferences and the Tutoring Center were some of the popular programs, students who took the survey expressed that they do not like homeroom. Fifty-nine percent felt that homeroom is of little or no value.

Sophomore Tricia Kuendig was among those who took the survey.

"I think it was a good idea to find out what kids like, but if they don't use the results, then there's no point in giving it to us," Kuendig said.

Social studies teacher and committee mamber Chuck Spinner said it was necessary to find out how people felt about different things since so much time is spent in school.

"We're taking this pretty seriously. There are a good number of students who voted on this, so that shows a lot of concern. If you know that teachers are trying to make things better, that should give you a good feeling," Spinner said.

The results of the survey will be discussed in an open forum in the auditorium at 2:15 p.m. on Feb. 15, according to Spinner. Interested students are encouraged to attend.

District eyes February ballot

BY JENNIE REIFF

Co-News Editor

BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL: These Shaker students will be forced to find another means of studying after the Tutoring Center closes tomorrow due to the levy failure.

Shakerite photo by Laura Kushnick

Voters failed to pass the 8.7-mill school levy by 417 votes in the Nov. 8 election.

The levy issue will go back on the ballot in a special election on Feb. 7. Even if the levy passes, however, the school system will not be able to collect the new revenue until '96, according to Superintendent Mark Freeman.

Several cuts will have to be made in order to compensate for these lost funds. According to Freeman the administration will have to cut $1,362,428 by the end of this school year and another $3.2 million in the '95-'96 school year. If the levy does not pass in February, more cuts will need to be made.

Among the cuts to be made are 45 staff positions before the beginning of next school year. The eliminated positions will be divided among teachers, administrators and support staff, but the majority of cuts will be teaching positions. The school board is looking to eliminate about 10 teaching jobs from the high school. Rumbaugh said the final decisions will probably be made in February or March.

Freeman said he hopes there will be retirements and teachers who leave on their own so fewer people will have to be laid off. He also said that some people might have their positions transferred, such as an administrator becoming a teacher.

"We have a terrific faculty here. We don't want to lose any," Freeman said.

Summer school will be eliminated, as well as professional development such as sending teachers to workshops. No new equipment will be purchased, and the purchase of school supplies will be limited. Principal A. Jack Rumbaugh said the Tutoring Center will close tomorrow.

According to Rumbaugh, field trips will be able to occur only under certain conditions. Teachers cannot attend field trips unless they can have colleagues take their missed classes.

School vans and other transportation provided by teachers and parents could take small groups, but busses are too expensive to hire. Because their fees have already been paid, however, athletics, the speech and debate team and Junior Council on World Affairs will still receive bussing.

According to the district's director of communications, Peggy Caldwell, there will be no substitute teachers other than for personal or sick days, and only emergency building repairs will be made. Certain classes, such as those with fewer than 10 students, will also be considered for cutbacks.

Rumbaugh said he is trying to minimize the effects of the lost revenue by trying to change as little as possible.

"My goal in this whole process is not to say no, but to find an alternative," Rumbaugh said.

Freeman said the cuts will lessen the quality of the educational program as class sizes and student-teacher ratios increase. He also said that the entire city could be affected.

"People move to cities like Shaker Heights for fine schools and city services. School levies failing are not uncommon, but if it happens continually the schools won't be as good. People won't move in," Freeman said.

This levy is only the third to fail in Shaker's history. The other two were in '32 and '83, and both passed in special elections the same year.

Rumbaugh said he was very disappointed when he learned of the levy failure.

"I appreciate the right of everyone in Shaker to vote against the levy, but it's hard not to personalize these things," Rumbaugh said.

The levy committee is going to communicate with the electorate to try to get it to pass in February. In addition, schools will be holding meetings to discuss finance and there will be a meeting in January with a forum of educational issues, according to Freeman. Math teachers Al Siebert and Walt Slovikovski have organized a drive to have at least 500 alumni vote for the levy by absentee ballot.

Caldwell attributed the failure of the levy to various factors concerning the voting population.

"We were in a general climate of skepticism about government. I think the recent reassessment of property taxes in Shaker Heights was scary to a lot of people," Caldwell said.

Freeman said the work of an opposition group, Shaker Concerned Residents, also contributed to the failure. The group sent fliers to Shaker residents persuading them to vote against the levy.

"I believe the district is going to have to communicate with the community to discuss the facts and figures put forth by the opposition that were incorrect or misleading," Freeman said.

Edward D. Friedman, a Beachwood resident who worked with Shaker Concerned Residents, denied that their facts were incorrect and said the group is no longer in existence. He also said that defeating the levy was necessary because the administration has enough money.

"I think [defeating the levy] was the proper thing to do for that particular time. The funds are there. It's not necessary to make any cuts," Friedman said.

Shaker citizen and former Shaker Concerned Residents member Jerry Polster is now the head of a newly formed group called Shaker Association for Value Education (SAVE). Polster declined to comment on any of the activities of Shaker Concerned Residents and does not yet know whether SAVE will work for or against the levy that will be on the February ballot.

What was happening this month in Shaker...

❑ TEN YEARS AGO: The administration made plans to move ninth grade to the high school. There was talk of a war with Nicaragua.

❑ FIVE YEARS AGO: The English curriculum changed to incorporate more writing. Some tenants of Shaker Towne Center were told to move out in order to begin development of the new center.

❑ LAST YEAR: Several high school clubs sponsored a school and community-wide food drive.

Activist Inman speaks against hatred

BY MILES BERGER
Staff Reporter

Ku Klux Klan (KKK) members in Billings, Montana were determined to drive all Blacks, Jews, Hispanics and gays out of town. Although most Billings residents did not feel it was necessary to respond to the KKK group, police chief Wayne Inman took a stand. Inman spoke about his experiences to several classes on Oct. 28.

"The young man who was the head of [the KKK chapter] came into my office and told me that [driving minorities out of town was their goal]. I told him, 'as police chief, I am your worst nightmare,'" Inman said.

To fight the racist philosophy of the KKK, Inman held public meetings to inform people of the danger of White supremacists. The meetings were sparsely attended. Most people felt that the KKK was not a threat.

According to Inman, the KKK, was not all talk. Last December, someone threw a chunk of cinder block through five-year-old Isaac Schnitzer's window, which had a "Happy Chanukah" sign and a menorah in it. Schnitzer was not at home, although he would have been killed or seriously injured if he had been.

> ***The young man who was the head of [the KKK chapter] came into my office and told me that [driving minorities out of town was their goal]. I told him, 'As police chief, I am your worst nightmare,'"***
>
> ***–Wayne Inman***

In addition to this incident, Inman said that the Jewish cemetery was vandalized, the synagogue received bomb threats, Jews were threatened and Black-churchgoers were harassed by skinheads.

After these incidents, over 4,000 Billings residents put up paper menorahs in their windows, which were distributed by the Montana Association of Churches, the local newspaper and local businesses. Several homes, cars and churches that had menorahs in their windows were vandalized, but the community showed enough opposition to the Klan to force it out of their town.

Inman grew up in an area where there were few minorities, so he used to think it was okay to use racial slurs. He joined the Marines, and worked with minorities and people from backgrounds other than his. He said this taught him about other people and made him recognize the importance of combating racism.

Foreign students to spend year in Shaker

BY MARIE FRISOF
Staff Reporter

Thirteen foreign exchange students from seven different countries are spending this year at the high school.

Ruth Berger, French teacher and adviser to the AFS-ISO club, organizes most of the exchanges.

She said that one of the yearly difficulties she encounters is locating hosts for the students. She is also challenged to encourage high school students to befriend the visitors. The language barrier is rarely a problem, according to Berger.

"[The exchange students] know English pretty well. They have to be able to speak English to come here. But you can always communicate if people can smile and gesture at each other," Berger said

Junior Lenka Dostalova, from the Czech Republic, feels that language does not present a major problem.

"[Language] is not as bad as when I arrived. The hardest part is to make American friends. I don't have a car so I can't do anything much. In Europe distances are small and you can walk or take the bus or train. Here you have to have a car," Dostalova said.

Eva Lavin, a junior from Madrid, said that she came to America so that she could experience a different culture.

"[I came] because I want to learn the language and live with another family. I want to find other people and other cultures, and to learn to live by myself," Lavin said.

While some students will only stay one semester, most will spend the year in Shaker.

The students are juniors Tina Becker, Ulrike Beckman, Dennis Belger, Jan Franckenstein, and Silke Karten from Germany; juniors Eva Maria Lavin and Alison Salvedo from Spain; junior Aija Polkane and freshman Agnese Ozolina from Latvia; junior Lenka Dostalova from the Czech Republic; junior Andrey Pur of Slovenia; junior Anna Hammaren from Sweden and junior Ozlem Kocanagullan of Turkey.

WE LOVE AMERICA! Foreign exchange students juniors Dennis Belger and Jan Franckenstein embrace the prospect of spending a year in Shaker.

Shakerite photo by Laura Kushnick

Leadership group offers opportunities for students, adults

BY RACHEL ZINN
Staff Reporter

Leadership Shaker is a city program designed to introduce both adult and teenage residents to the importance of leadership skills.

Members learn how these skills relate to becoming involved in city government and volunteer work.

Junior Shelly Morrison, a group member, explained that it can help people begin jobs in city government or move to a higher-level job.

"It's a kind of launching pad for becoming active in the community," Ann Adamson, committee director, said.

The program also addresses leadership topics in general, according to senior Ingrid Norman. Norman said that at one meeting she attended, the participants took a test that showed what type of leadership skills they exhibited the most.

Morrison recalled a previous meeting where the group discussed ethnic and racial issues.

"When we came into the room, we were read opinions about ethnic and racial issues. We had to go to one side of the room depending on whether we agreed with the statement or not. It was neat having to choose sides and discuss your views," Morrison said.

Leadership Shaker was started by Mayor Pat Mearns three years ago, and this is the first year that students have been invited to the program according to Adamson.

Adamson said that the program has been very successful.

"People seem to enjoy the experience of learning about the city and getting to know each other," Adamson said.

Students can attend Leadership Shaker by filling out an application which can be found at local businesses and in Shaker magazine, or by calling the Mayor's Office to get more information. A city committee, including Mearns, will select about thirty applicants to participate in the program.

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Thrasher
Pervert
Dog Eat Dog
Transworld Skate
Transworld Snow
Tattoo
Zed Hed
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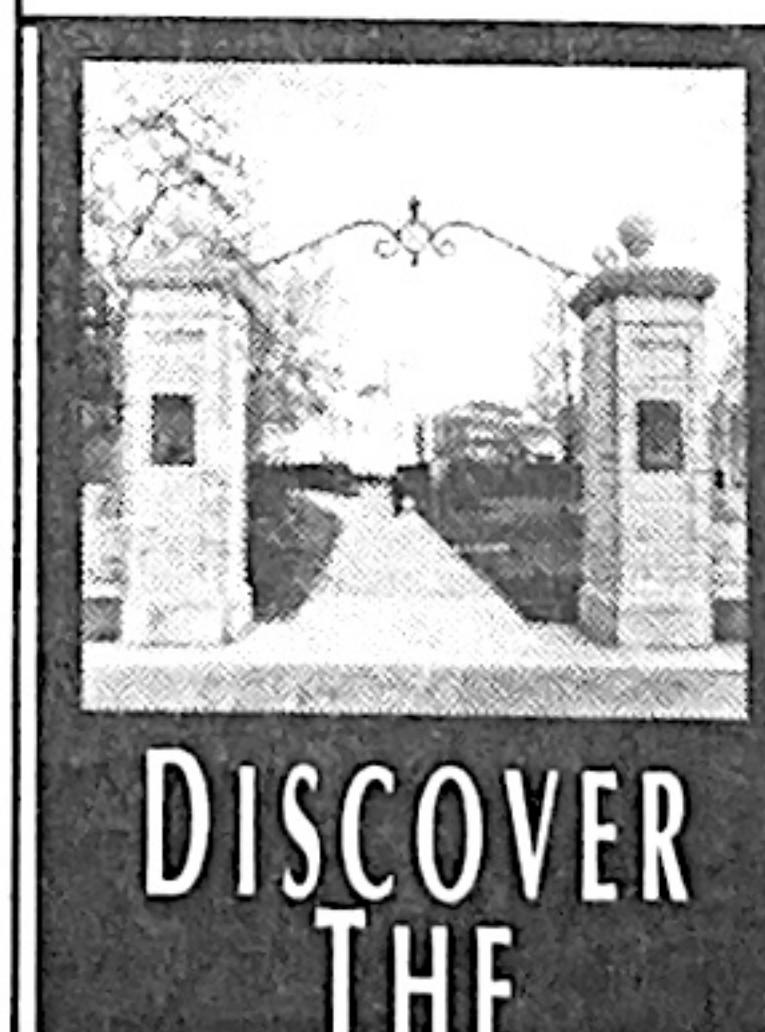

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DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

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Steps taken to assure safe high school

BY LOUISE BURTON
Staff Reporter

With recent violent incidents in nearby schools, many students wonder if this kind of violence could happen at the high school.

Communication is a key factor in maintaining order in the high school, according to Principal A. Jack Rumbaugh.

"If kids know that they can talk to the administration and faculty, we can hopefully help them work through their problems," Rumbaugh said.

Several steps have been taken to decrease school violence and to ensure student safety, according to Rumbaugh.

The Shaker Heights Police Departmet issues two patrol cars to circle the high school during lunch time and dismissal. If an incident occurs on campus and a police officer is present, the student will be detained at the police station, according to Sgt. John Boykin.

"Although we usually like to let the school handle issues of violence, police involvement may be a deterent. I'd say there are about 10 to 15 incidents a year where we are called in," Boykin said.

Another measure being taken in dealing with violence is the presence of security guards in the high school. According to Rumbaugh, the security guards observe behavior in the halls and make sure that there are no outsiders in the school.

Other public school systems have taken further steps to decrease school violence. For example, Cleveland Heights High School formed peer mediation groups to combat behavior problems.

Shakerite photo by Larry Latson

"The student participation in these groups has been tremendous. We have cut our in-school incidents [of violence] in half from where it was last year," Dr. Thomas Allen, the unit principal in charge of security at Cleveland Heights High School said.

Although peer mediation is not used at our school, Rumbaugh said that other measures are taken to deal with students involved in violence. These include calling parents, sending the students home for the day or arranging a meeting between the students involved.

Many students feel that other means of handling violence should be instituted in the high school.

"I think that the school needs to take more preventative measures like having seminars or assemblies on the harmful impact of kids fighting. The same punishments again and again won't solve anything," sophomore Linsey Molloy said.

According to Rumbaugh, violence in high schools has been on the rise.

"The trend toward youth violence has been increasing at an alarming rate," Rumbaugh said.

However, Rumbaugh said that he believes that students are basically respectful and are able to handle themselves when confronted with violence.

Students and administrators believe that violence is not a problem here.

"School violence has never been an issue of concern for me or my friends; I think that if students make the right choices and stay out of trouble there shouldn't be a problem," junior Matt Guerrier said.

City institutes ban on toy guns

BY NAWAL ATWAN
Staff Reporter

Toy guns were banned in Shaker after the city council passed an ordinance in October addressing the public's concerns about violence and safety in the community.

The ordinance prohibits the use of replica firearms in a threatening manner when causing a person to believe the gun is real. This includes pointing a toy gun at another person.

Toy guns that are used as toys and not as guns are not included in the ban.

Shaker Heights police chief Walter Ugrinic requested the ordinance after several toy gun incidents occurred in Shaker and other surrounding communities.

Toy guns frightened Shaker residents in a business district and during a football game when a man was holding a toy gun that appeared real, according to Ugrinic.

Ugrinic said the toys cause problems because they are often mistaken for actual weapons.

"Under emergency circumstances, the police are trained to respond to calls of people bearing real guns. Toy guns look real, especially in the dark, and there is a great amount of danger that can result," Ugrinic said.

The ordinance bans replica firearms "recognizable as a pistol, revolver, shotgun, sawed-off shotgun, rifle, machine gun, rocket launcher, or any other firearm" when used to threaten a person. Toy guns that are undoubtably not real such as squirt guns are not banned by the city.

Problems involving toy guns have occurred in the high school before, according to security guard Richard Johnson.

"There was an incident in the high school when a student pretended he had a real gun but it was actually a toy gun. The administration dealt with the problem. I think toy guns should be banned completely and should not be in existence," Johnson said.

Although no fatalities involving toy guns have occurred in Shaker, an East Cleveland teen was shot by police recently after pointing a BB gun at the officer. Since then, East Cleveland has proposed a toy gun ban similar to the one in Shaker.

"The toy gun ban was created as a mechanism that is proactive to prevent violence. We don't want to put kids in jail, we want to save as many lives as we can," Ugrinic said.

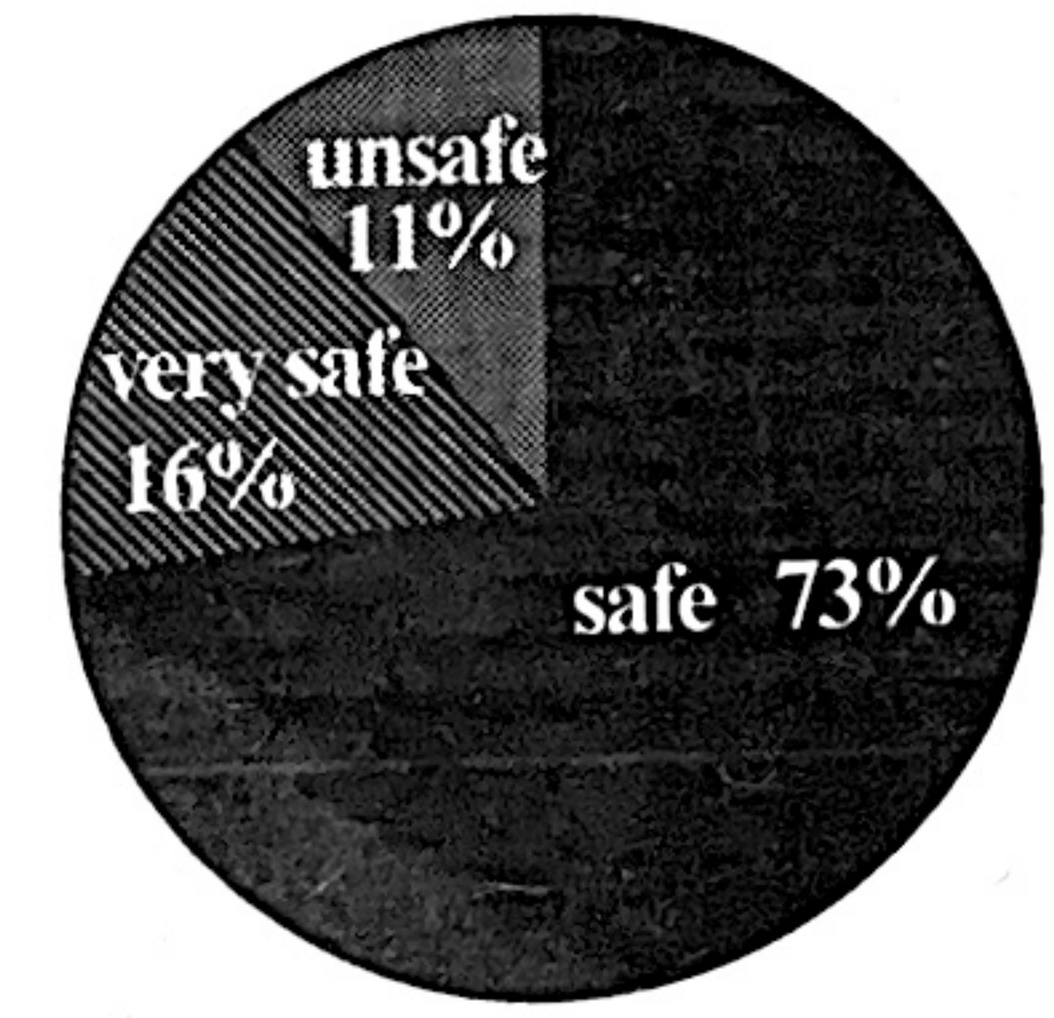
Breaking the law involving toy guns is a misdemeanor and the violator can be penalized by up to six months in jail and $1,000 fine.

In order to prevent toy gun tragedies, Toys R Us and Kay-Bee Toy Stores stop selling realistic toy guns. Some shools have also started programs to encourage kids to turn in toy guns.

Violence: How it affects the community, what can be done to prevent it

High school students feel safe in school

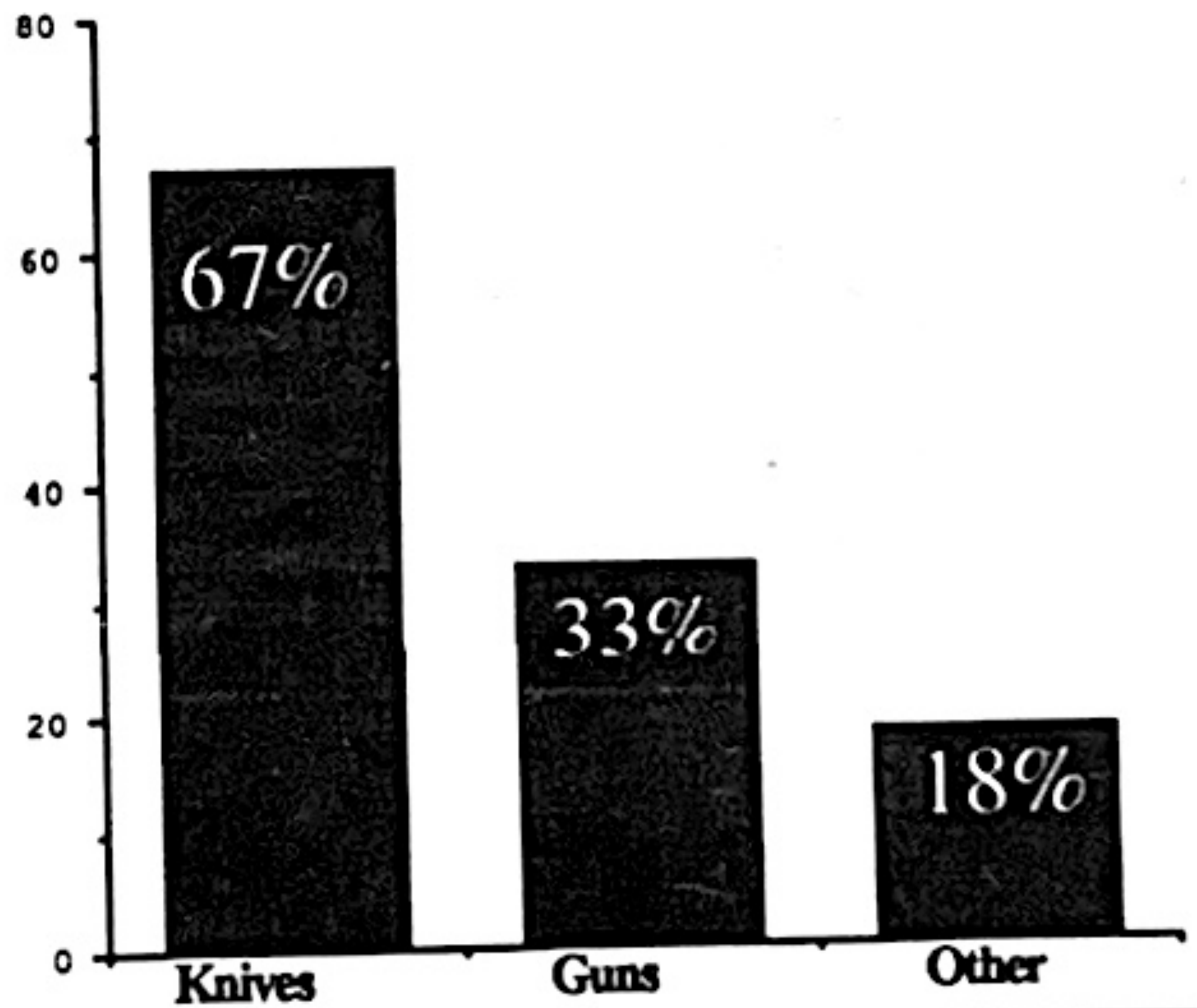
How safe do you feel at school?



Have you brought weapons to school?

YES: 18% NO: 82%

If you have, what kind?



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Five Politically Incorrect Terms and Their Alternatives

1. Old Joke: Previously recounted humorous narrative.
2. Dishonest: Morally different; ethically disoriented.
3. Herpes: His 'n' herpes
4. Panhandler: Unaffiliated applicant for private-sector funding.
5. Mafioso: Member of a career-offender cartel.
6. Meat: Processed animal carcasses.
7. Shoplifter: Nontraditional shopper.
8. Vagrant: Directionally impoverished person.

Source: The Book of Lists

Teachers should encourage knowledge, not scores

THE RITE IDEA

Around seventh grade, the "I hate school" syndrome develops. As concerned students, we worry about our grades. But the concern is with how we can do the minimum amount of work, learn the least amount of information and still get the maximum grade on the test. If a teacher says 'This won't be on the test,' our brains automatically shut down. Yet as much as we hate to admit it, hearing teachers insist that our ultimate goal is knowledge, gives us comfort. Even if we don't treasure our education now, we realize that there is importance to learning, even after tests are a distant memory. *As long as you learn something.* No matter what our attitude, teachers will defend this statement to the end. Or will they?

We are often told that scores are virtually meaningless. But the message soon changes when we are subjected to the tyranny of standardized testing. Suddenly, the school becomes the advocate of high numbers, and it doesn't matter how you get them. In last year's school-sponsored SAT review session, the junior class was taught how to answer questions on the verbal SAT section without reading the passage. If the purpose of verbal education is to read, comprehend and evaluate, then these methods seem to have little to do with education.

Last year, the school had Adam Robinson, author of *What Smart Students Know*, conduct a seminar for the sophomore class. During the session, Robinson explained how he helped a girl score higher on the SAT by choosing the answer she thought was wrong. Apparently, when she chose the answer she thought was correct, it wasn't. If this unusual system raised the girl's scores, what good did it do her? She still did not have the skills or knowledge to determine the correct answers logically.

Yet we are still carted off to homeroom every few weeks to receive flyers about SAT workshops so that we too, can learn the art of choosing what we think is the wrong answer. And for those who end up getting high scores, with or without the help of SAT workshops, admiration will be abundant. Whether or not these students learn anything becomes irrelevant.

In all fairness, many teachers discourage the idea that standardized tests are the beginning or end of our lives. Yet many teachers base 80 percent or more of a student's grade on class test scores alone. Homework, class participation, ideas expressed in essays and overall effort become nearly insignificant. The goal of education is particularly unclear in AP classes. After being told for years that knowledge is the reward of hard work, we are confronted by a new proposal that the AP test is the reward. We are assured that we won't waste our time learning anything that won't be on the AP test.

By the last years of high school, we are already feeling that our entire lives were designed to impress college admissions officers. Finding out teachers agree on the importance of test scores over knowledge only adds to feelings of instability. Teachers, please assure us that knowledge is the most important element in life. One day, we want to look back and think that it is. By then we will have certainly forgotten whether we got 89 or 90 on the test.

CHEERS & JEERS

Cheers to all the snow days we would have if we lived in Alaska.

Jeers to Moe for stealing the Flaming Homer.

Cheers to winter break, a time for utter laziness.

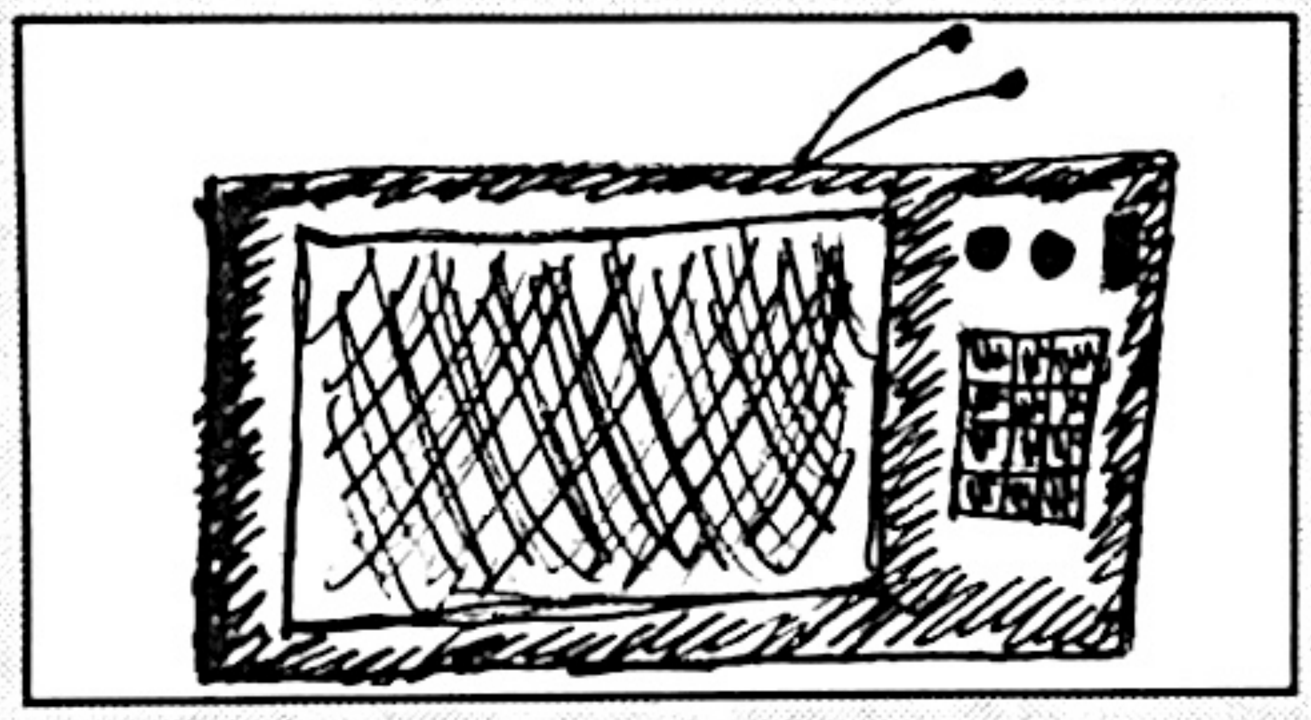
Jeers to teachers who don't take their classes to assemblies. We all need enrichment.

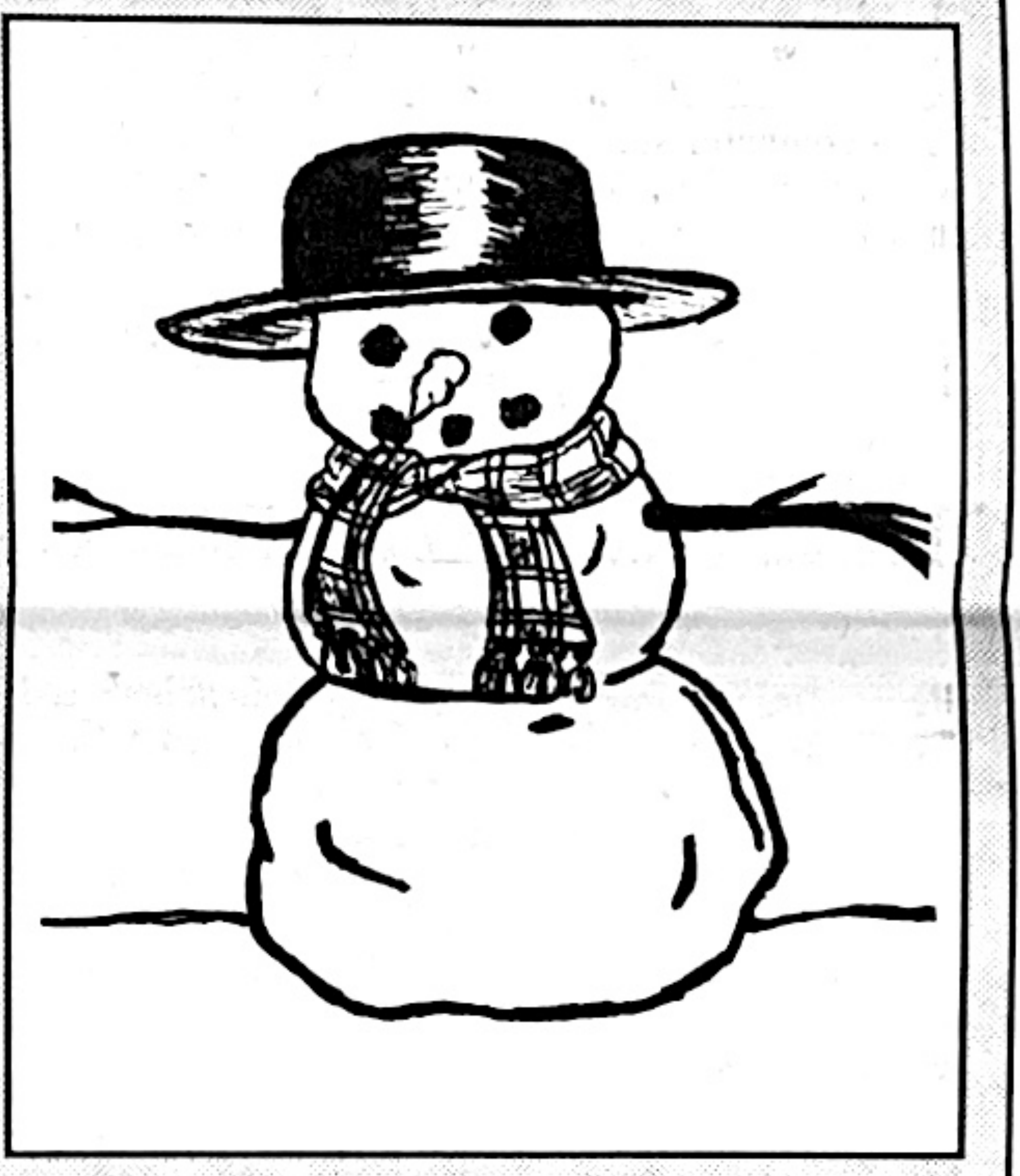
***Cheers** to the sophomores. Someone has to like them.*

Jeers to long 4-5, 5-6, 6-7, and 7-8 periods when the schedule is shortened. They are truly unbearable.

Cheers to Pert Plus. It's shampoo, it's conditioner, it's in one bottle. It's fantastic!

Jeers to long 1st-10th periods when there is a normal schedule. They are truly unbearable.





Cheers to the best of our fall sport athletes who were recognized by *The Plain Dealer.*

Jeers to unbrushed teeth.

Cheers to the dance show and the teachers who took us there.

Jeers to head rushes when you get up from watching TV for awhile.

THE TOP TEN

Ways to Miserably Fail Your Finals

10. –When you walk in, complain about the heat. Strip.

9. –During the exam, take apart everything around you: desks, chairs, anything you can reach.

8. –Every now and then, clap twice rapidly. If the proctor asks why, say "the light bulb that goes on above my head when I get an idea is hooked up to a clapper."

7. –Bring a friend to give you a back massage the entire way through the exam.

6. –Get a copy of the exam, run out screaming "Andre, Andre, I've got the secret documents!"

5. –Bring cheerleaders.

4. –Every five minutes, stand up, collect all your things, move to another seat, continue with the exam.

3. –Run into the exam looking about frantically. Breathe a sigh of relief. Go to the instructor and say "They've found me, I have to leave the country," and run off.

2. –Try to get people in the room to do the wave.

...and the number 1 way to fail is...

1. –As soon as the instructor hands you the exam, eat it.

The Shakerite is a public forum published nine times yearly for and by the students of Shaker Heights High School.

Letters to the editor must be signed and may not exceed 250 words. Letters, subscription and advertising inquiries should be delivered to the Shakerite office in Room 229, or mailed to: The Shakerite, 15911 Aldersyde Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120. The Shakerite reserves the right to reject or edit any letter to the editor or advertisement.

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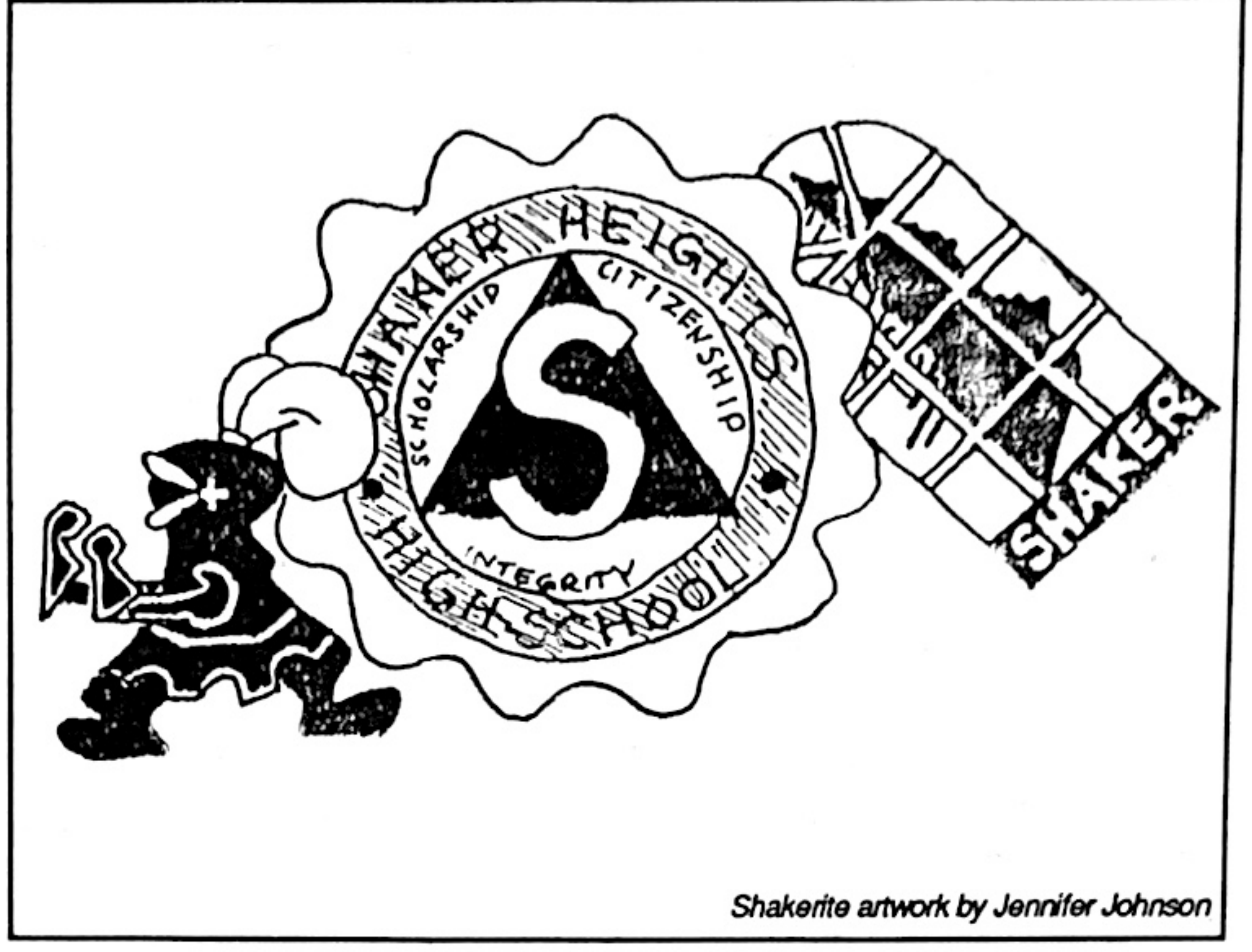
Time to stop: Shaker students should quit whining, seek opportunities

BY THOMAS MCGILL

Staff Reporter



Shakerite artwork by Jennifer Johnson

I am not a native Shakerite. I am originally from California, notorious for its bankrupt school system. My move here is therefore representative of a "rags to riches" transition from one education system to another. I came from a school district with nothing, to here, one with everything, so I feel as though I can more fully appreciate what Shaker has to offer. What angers me is that some students here actually have the audacity to complain about their school.

While passing between classes the other day, I overheard two students talking to one another.

"This school sucks," one said to the other.

"Yeah, I know. I hate it too," the other replied.

'This school sucks'?! Do these people and others who share their opinion (you know who you are) realize what they are saying?! Think about what is offered here. Last time I checked there was a 13.1 to 1 student-teacher ratio. In California, it wasn't uncommon for there to be classes with upwards of 35 students. Shaker has its own planetarium, offers many wonderful electives in various subjects, and even has a Tutoring Center from 4p.m. to 7p.m. Monday through Thursday, complete with actual faculty members and a computer lab with dozens of Macintoshes. My former high school had a grand total of seven electives (and even those were in peril of being cut), a meager computer lab which was only available to computer science students, and if you needed help with homework and such, you saw your teacher immediately after school– if they were even there.

Shaker's sports program includes everything from lacrosse to ice hockey. John Swett High School (the name of my high school in California) had football and volleyball in the fall, basketball for men and women during the winter, and baseball and softball in the spring. That was it. My point is, stop whining!

Disgruntled students of Shaker Heights High School don't quite seem to know just how good they really have it. I sincerely hope that an affluent community such as this one can learn from the misfortunes of the Californian education system. If you're dissatisfied with the school as it is, then get up and do something about it, don't sit there moaning and groaning about it.

That is one of the reasons that schools in California are poor. They, too, were once well-funded, but people didn't pass certain levies and taxes, they allowed for certain legislative acts against the interests of the schools to be passed, and they have no one to blame but themselves.

So learn from the mistakes of others. Keep the schools here well-funded for future generations, pass levies as they come up and exercise your right to vote and be heard. Attend school board meetings and get involved, but above all, stop whining! If you do not, one day you will look back upon the ruins of the Shaker schools and wish that you had cared enough to fund them.

Well, will you look at that! I've become a bit of a hypocrite. Here I am telling people to "stop whining," while all the while I myself have been whining. There is one major difference between my whining and that of others, however– I whine in favor of Shaker schools.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

In the Oct. 27 issue of the Shakerite there is a very large advertisement on the third page for the Equalizer. In this ad there is a sale on Bravo Plus and Bravo Express pagers. The school policy states that pagers and other electronical devices are prohibited.This ad is contradicting school rules. If pagers are not allowed then why publish an ad for them in our school communication source? Since they are not allowed [in school], they should not be associated with the school newspaper.

–Tiffany Chapman, junior

To the editor:

I recently read the article in the *Shakerite* about the young lady who pierced her belly button. I think this is ridiculous! Why would anyone put a hole in their body that was not put there for a reason? Nobody is born with pierced body parts. I know that new fashions are turning up everywhere, but diseases and viruses are also popping up out of nowhere. It is simple to obtain the HIV virus from an unsafe, unclean needle used to pierce the body.

I want to know why so many girls have their ears pierced. It is true that some earrings are quite fashionable. However, there are alternative methods such as clip-on and magnetic earrings.

The main question that I would debate before piercing my body would be whether it is important to look 'cool,' or be healthy.

–Ben Simon, junior

To the editor:

On Dec. 6, about 15 students were in the egress during eighth period lunch, the most crowded lunch period. We were down there to get away from the hustle. We were well under control and respectful to ourselves and school property. The guards said we were disrupting classes, though no classes are adjacent to the three-foot-thick brick walls. If the school cannot balance the lunch periods, then let us eat someplace where we can enjoy our lunch.

–Jamar Lewis, senior

Junior varsity players deserve to share, not be denied admiration of varsity athletes

BY RACHEL ZINN

Staff Reporter

Shakerite artwork by Amy Johnson

"So, when are you going to get your letter jacket?"

This a question asked a little too often in our school. The question is not malicious in itself, but it represents the emphasis that students, teachers and coaches place on competing at a varsity level.

P.A. announcements and game attendance are examples of how junior varsity sports are downplayed as compared to their varsity counterparts. Announcements seem to focus on varsity games and records, and attendance for junior varsity games is usually not good. In fact, does the word "pathetic" mean anything to you?

Coaches also promote the attitude that varsity sports are more important. Often, activities to improve skills are justitified with the argument that they will prepare athletes for the varsity team. It is frustrating for J.V. kids to constantly be told about the varsity team by coaches. It can make those who could not make varsity feel inferior and think that their participation on a J.V. team is not important.

Now, before you varsity players start plotting various acts of violence against me, it should be understood that I am in no way putting down your achievements. We live in a society that admires success, and being a good enough athlete to make a varsity team definitely counts as success. Hooray! Give yourself a big pat on the back. To keep up that varsity coordination, try rubbing your stomach at the same time. (Just a friendly suggestion.)

However, try to remember that there are players that may have trained very hard but may be too young, too inexperienced, or just plain not good enough to be a varsity level player. These athletes often compete on a junior varsity team, and they deserve some credit too.

Junior varsity teams provide a great opportunity for less experienced and possibly smaller freshman and sophomores to play their sport. The team also lets upperclassmen compete who either began playing the sport recently or did not quite have the skills necessary to be on a varsity team. For these types of students, junior varsity can certainly have advantages.

For one thing, junior varsity teams can have a lot of spirit. Since opponents at their level may not be as strong, the focus of the team can shift slightly from sports to social relationships. Some J.V. teams have closer friendships because the players are not competing as much with each other for positions. Also, since other students do not always follow their record, J.V. teams must be their own biggest fans.

In addition, most J.V. teams work just as hard as varsity teams do. They practice just as much and the practices are intense. It is sophomoric to assume that because players are not on a varsity team they do not care about being good and do not work as hard. (Sophomoric is a word meaning foolish, not a crack on sophomores. See! You learn something new every day.) Some J.V. teams even practice with varsity on occasion.

The most important aspect of J.V. teams that is usually overlooked is that they may be *good.* Many J.V. teams have better records than the varsity team for that sport. Yes, they are competing on a different level, but a record is a record.

So, junior varsity athletes of the world, unite and hold your heads up high! When someone asks you if you misplaced your letter jacket, smile and reply that your J.V. team had a great time this year, and tell them that they should have come to watch some of the games. Be proud of your accomplishments, and keep working hard to make varsity next year. And if you don't, who cares?

To the rest of the school, give credit where credit is due. Commend the varsity players, but do not forget that there is also a J.V. team. If you are feeling really spirited, go with a couple of friends to watch a J.V. game. You might just be surprised.

LEGALIZATION?

Drugs should be legal, personal choice

BY MILES BERGER
Staff Reporter

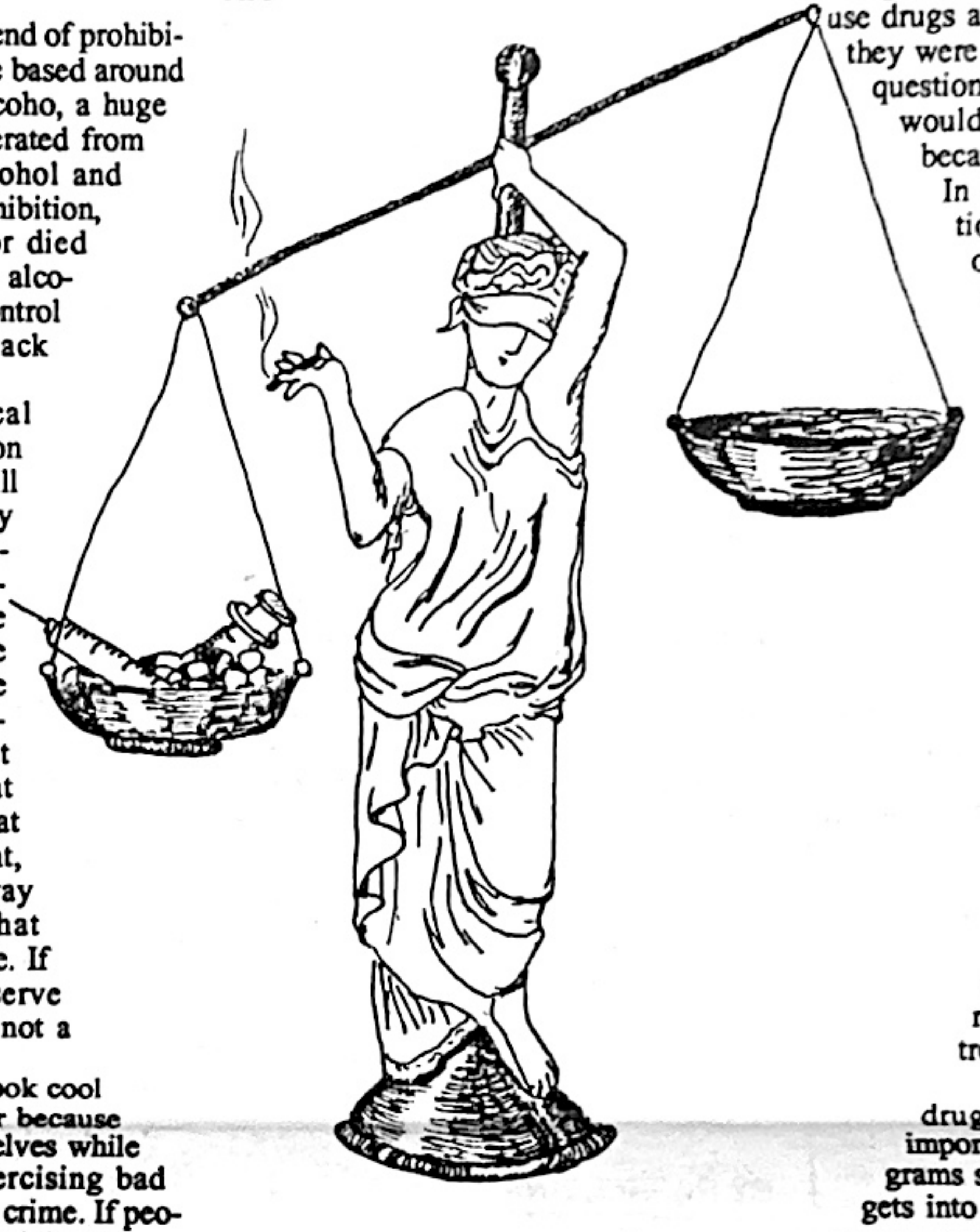
When alcohol use was illegal during the '30s, prohibitionists used one main argument: that alcohol could not become legal because if it was, everyone would become an alcoholic and our entire nation would be reduced to poverty. Once alcohol became legal, however, very few people actually became alcoholics as a result of legalization.

The main effects of the end of prohibition were less mafia violence based around the black market sale of alcoho, a huge amount of tax revenue generated from government control of alcohol and better whiskey. During prohibition, many people went blind or died because of impurities in the alcohol, which had no quality control since it was sold on the black market.

Despite this historical precedent for the legalization of drugs, many people are still against legalization. Many people believe that prohibition does not serve as a historical precedent for the legalization of drugs like cocaine and heroin, because they are much more dangerous than alcohol. However, it is important to realize that drug abuse is a disease that deserves medical treatment, not a crime; in the same way alcoholism is a disease that merits treatment, not a crime. If people use drugs, they deserve treatment for their disease, not a jail sentence.

If people use drugs to look cool because of peer pressure, or because they feel better about themselves while they are high, they are exercising bad judgement, not committing a crime. If people want to smoke a joint or inject themselves with heroin, society has no business considering them as criminals, putting them in jail or fining them. This argument is the same one used in the pro-choice bumper sticker which states 'If you don't like abortions, don't have one.' If people want to use drugs, they should be free to do so as long as their behavior does not endanger anyone else. It should be illegal to drive while under the influence of any drug, but what you do in the privacy of your own home is no one else's business.

Legalizing drugs also makes sense from a crime standpoint. If the government sold cocaine and other drugs in the same way it sells alcohol, there would be a sharp decline in drug-related deaths and gang violence, the same way there was after alcohol was legalized. Also, if the government sold drugs, there would be some type of quality control on the drugs so that people would not get sick or die from impurities.


Shakerite artwork by Jennifer Johnson

If the government controlled the sale of drugs, not only would gang violence and drug related deaths go down, but the government would make an immense amount in taxes. Since they are illegal and purchased on the black market now, drugs are one of the few items in this country that are purchased tax-free. If the government charged a small tax on all drugs, a huge amount of money would be made; some of which could be used to fund rehab and recovery programs for users.

Despite these reasons, some people say that hard drugs should still be illegal because if they were legal, many more people would start to use them. Although a few more people would use drugs if they were legal, most non-users would stay that way. The reason that most people do not use drugs is because they are bad for you, not because our government considers using drugs a crime. These people do not use drugs and still would not use whether they were legal or not. Ask yourself this question: If you do not use drugs now, would you start using them if they became legal tomorrow?

In addition, government legalization and control of drugs is the only way to break the vicious cycle of gang violence, prostitution and crime in America's inner cities. If drug sales were controlled by the government, the gangs would have nothing to sell or fight over and they could not charge exorbitant prices to addicts, who then rob or prostitute to get drug money.

The only way to stop this vicious cycle, which is destroying a great part of our generation, is to decriminalize drug use and have the government control their sales. Then, the government can tax the sale of drugs and use these funds for drug prevention and recovery efforts, instead of treating users as criminals.

Since kids start using drugs earlier all the time, it is important that drug prevention programs start early, before a child even gets into kindergarten. Currently these programs are underfunded, and drug taxes would provide necessary funding.

In countries such as the Netherlands, drugs have been legalized and the effects have been mainly positive. The crime rates have gone down, and society has not been ripped to shreds by soaring use rates.

Our government has wasted billions of dollars in the war against drugs, a war that we have largely lost. Let's stop wasting money on a war we cannot win and try a system that has worked– legalization.

Making drugs legal promotes usage and acceptance

BY KEVIN COLE
Co-Opinion Editor

The legalization of drugs is an idea that has been proposed for quite some time. No less that the current Surgeon General of the United States has said that legalizing drugs through legislation is a smart idea, however, many people still scoff at the very idea. There is a simple reason for this: the legalization of drugs would tear at the fabric of our country and eventually rip it apart.

Illicit drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, are illicit for a reason: they are extraordinarily dangerous for anyone who uses them. These drugs are extremely addictive to the point where the user will do anything to get more. This is where one of the arguments for legalizing drugs comes in. Supporters of legalization rationalize that if users are killing and stealing now for these drugs because they are illegal, why not make them legal, so anyone can walk into a 'State Narcotics Store' and buy them? It is a great idea if every drug user had enough money to satisfy his need whenever he wanted. But what about the users who have no money, or who spend what little of it they do have on drugs? Guess what? They are still going to spend it all on drugs, and if the drugs are cheaper because they are not being sold on the black market, users will just buy more. They will kill and steal to get more money, because their appetite is insatiable. That is what being addicted means.

The most obvious reason that legalizing drugs is a horrible idea is the increase in drug users that would occur from such legislation. A way to look at the possible ramifications is to take alcohol as an example. As of now, many teenagers consume alcohol for two main reasons: they can get it, and it is legal (even if it is not until the age of 21). Many of these same teenagers, however, would never consider snorting cocaine because they know where to draw the line. They realize that it is not only illegal, but very dangerous. If these drugs were suddenly made as available to teenagers as alcohol currently is, questions might arise in the teenager's mind. "If the government says drugs are legal, maybe they're not all that bad?" "How could it hurt to try it once?" And then the cycle would begin, and the number of drug abusers in our society would grow exponentially.

Yes, drug abuse is a disease, not a crime. But why encourage the disease? We should be concentrating on eliminating the problem, not strengthening it. The idea of putting a tax on drugs sold legally, and then using that money to help with government revenues and in the rehabilitative process is almost laughable. That's like the government saying, "Thanks so much for your purchase! Now, how can I help you with your problem?" It's ridiculous.

Quite simply, legalizing drugs would be the biggest mistake in the history of our country. The problems that would undoubtably arise would be enormous both in their number and severity. Focus on keeping the drugs from ever crossing our borders, not on the benefits that a 'buy one gram get one gram free' sale on cocaine could have. It is painfully obvious that there would be no benefits, and that instead, everything our country has worked so hard to achieve would be destroyed.

With winter break quickly approaching, the newest crop of movies will be released into stores. For these new arrivals, check out your local video store.

○ Blown Away (Dec. 14)
○ I Love Trouble (Dec. 14)
○ The Client (Dec. 21)
○ Wagons East (Dec. 21)
○ The Land Before Time II (Dec. 26)
○ Fear of a Black Hat (Jan. 4)
○ North (Jan. 1)
○ True Lies (Jan. 1)

Check out What's Goin' On for what else is happening this vacation.

Radio shows offer listeners talk, music

BY BRENDAN MASINI
Staff Reporter

Throughout the day, various radio shows come on the air, all hoping to keep their listeners interested during the conversation between songs. Radio shows use a variety of tactics to achieve their goals and are constantly vying for a larger listening audience. Here is a list of some of the major shows in Cleveland and students' reactions to them.

The Big Show

➜Hosts: LeeAnne Sommers and Johnny D
➜Station: 92.3 WJMO, Jammin' 92
➜Time: Monday through Friday, 6–10 a.m.
➜Music: Top 40 music which includes easier listening songs such as those by Jon Secada to songs with a stronger beat by artists such as Salt-n-Pepa.
➜Student reactions: "I like the music they play because they have a good mixture of Rap and R & B," sophomore Lyndsey Mirmelstein said.

"I like listening to '92 because they play a great variety of music," freshman Josh Lichterman said.

➜Show notes: Besides the variety of music, Sommers tries to keep listeners interested by using "teases." A tease is a gimmick that rewards the listener with prizes. The most popular teases are giveaways such as concert tickets, CDs, T-shirts, and various other paraphernalia. Requests for songs and song dedications by callers are also used to keep people interested in the show.

Jammin' 92 uses a music log that dictates which songs will be played. Requests are not live but are recorded and then played on the air when the appropriate song comes up on the log. Songs are placed on the log depending on the listener response. The most popular songs will be put on the log more frequently and will continue to be played over a longer period of time than songs that are not as well accepted by the listeners.

Buzzard Morning Zoo

➜Hosts: Brian Fowler and Joe Croanuer
➜Station: 100.7 WMMS
➜Time: Monday–Friday, 5:30–10 a.m.
➜Music: This show features popular modern rock by groups such as Pearl Jam, Offspring, and R.E.M.
➜Show notes: Featured on the show are several games that the DJ's use to get callers involved. One of the more popular games is the "Five in Ten," in which the caller challenges either Brian or Joe to name five things of related common knowledge in ten seconds. An example would be a caller challenging Brian to name 5 types of vacuum cleaners. The DJ's also ask trivia questions on the air and award prizes to the callers who can answer them. Guest appearances by sport or television personalities, comedians or other persons of renown who are visiting the Cleveland area are also common. Recent guests have been Dan Rather and the man that does the voice of Yakko on the Warner Brothers cartoon, "Animaniacs."

Jennifer Wyilde

➜Host: Jennifer Wyilde
➜Station: 100.7 WMMS
➜Time: Monday–Friday, 6–10 p.m.
➜Music: Top five most requested songs of the day.
➜Show notes: This show features the most requested songs of the day on its top 5 countdown. To draw listeners to this show the caller who can correctly name the top five songs in order wins a prize. Another dimension of the show is the "New Music Buzzard Battle." This segment features songs that have just been released by various artists. The challenging song is played first and then the defending champion from the night before is played. Wyilde's show is highlighted by her tendency to insult and degrade callers and by her plugs for the night club Trilogy where she DJ's on Friday nights.

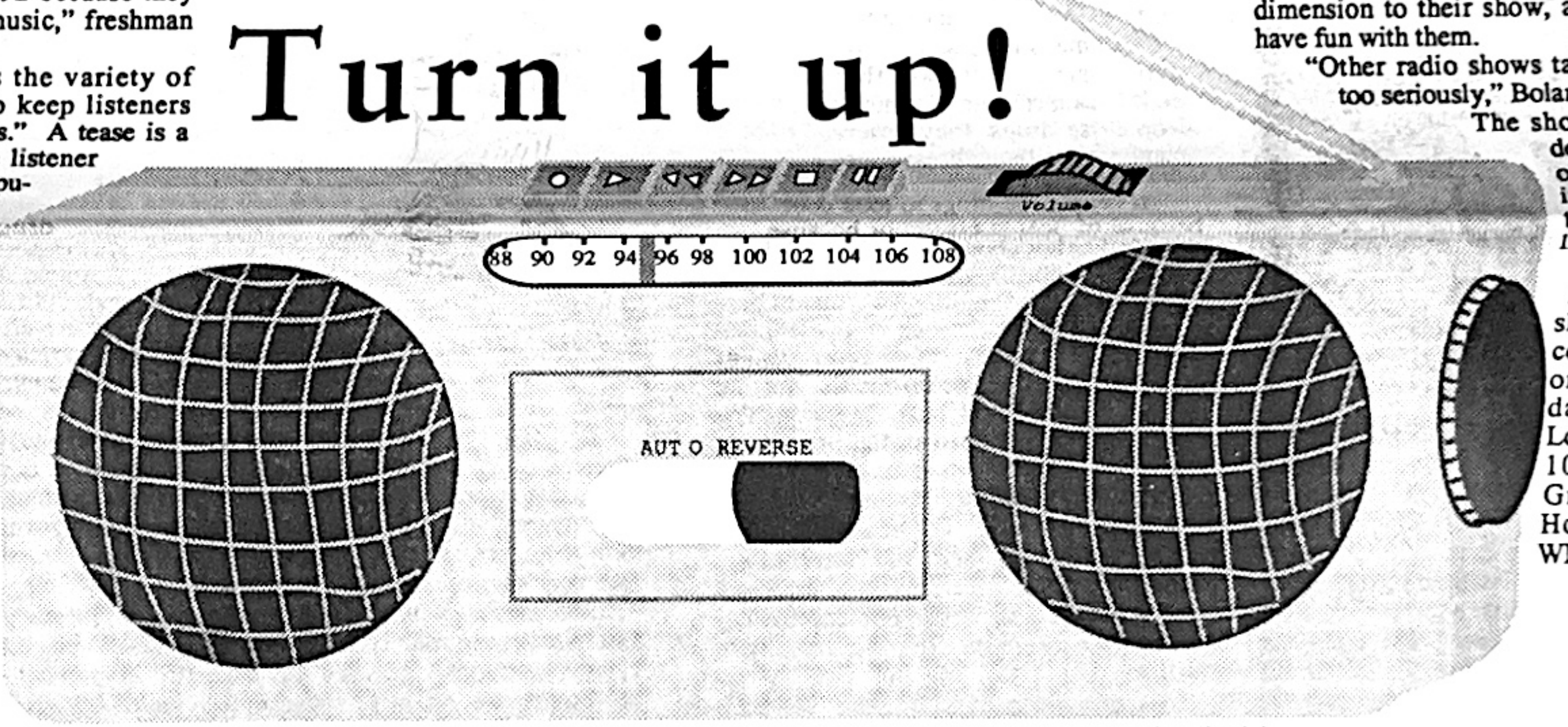
The Pontificators

➜Hosts: Eric Boland and Lou Zigmond
➜Station: 88.7 WUJC
➜Time: Saturdays, 12–2 p.m.
➜Subject: Sports
➜Show notes: The show is hosted by Shaker graduate Eric Boland and is co-hosted by Lou Zigmond. "The Pontificators" is mainly a sports call–in show but the topic often strays. The hosts get together to decide on some themes for the show but the callers and their questions mainly dictate the content. Much of the program is used as a forum for prank calls and many Shaker students take part in these activities to have fun. The hosts maintain that the prank callers add another dimension to their show, and they try to have fun with them.

"Other radio shows take themselves too seriously," Boland said.

The show uses a tape delay to beep out obscenities used in the calls to its three phone lines.

Besides these shows, there are countless others on the air these days such as Love Phones on 100.7 and The Grateful Dead Hour on 98.5 WNCX.



Shakerite graphic by Jennifer Johnson

From Snoop to jazz, students' tastes vary

BY JESSICA WEEKS
Staff Reporter

Pick a tune. Any tune. Be it rock or rap, techno or alternative, or even Gregorian Chants, chances are you'll find someone else at the high school who likes your music too.

Students' tastes run from the mainstream to the downright...different.

So-called "alternative" music has been steadily gaining popularity among teenagers. With groups like Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Stone Temple Pilots, even fashion has been affected by the "grunge" trends. REM and the Gin Blossoms have also been attracting a lot of attention with their more upbeat melodies.

Sophomore Haley Smith said she likes mainly alternative music and listens to radio stations such as 107.9 WENZ and 100.7 WMMS.

"I like groups like Toad the Wet Sprocket and the Indigo Girls," Smith said.

Other students' tastes run towards "harder" music like heavy metal. Sophomore Michelle Jackson said Green Day, a new group whose catchy tunes have taken MTV by storm, Tool, and the Smithereens are among her favorite groups.

Rap, a completely different — and quite controversial — form of music, also has a very strong following among students. Artists like Snoop Doggy Dogg and Dr. Dre have consistently gained popularity among many students. According to a recent Shakerite survey of 179 students, rap is the music of choice for about 20 percent of the student population. Another 30 percent said that although rap is not their favorite type of music, they still frequently listen to it.

Junior Raymond Price said he likes listening to rap groups such as Scarface, Spice 1 and Notorius. Gangsta rap, with its explicit lyrics and violent subject matter has been severely criticized for being a bad influence on younger people. Despite this reputation, it continues to be one of the most popular forms of music around today.

Sophomore Lyndsey Mirmelstein said she is a big fan of gangsta rap, and although she recognizes the violent content of some of the music, she doesn't think that it is detremental to society.

"I love rap! I love Dr.Dre and Warren G, but Snoop is the best," Mirmelstein said. "I love the beat and the words are just funny...I think that a lot of the lyrics are really violent and inappropriate, but I don't think that they promote violence."

Many people, however, do not share this view. Most radio stations either delete explicit lyrics or dub in "cleaner" ones, and record companies have been putting warning labels on questionable material. Some students feel that these actions are not necessary and that some forms of music are just misunderstood.

"The reason people don't like certain kinds of music is because they really don't understand it," sophomore Danielle Barnes said.

Barnes said she prefers listening to R&B, another form of music that has continued to be a favorite of many students. Stars like Janet Jackson and R. Kelly and groups like SWV have a large following among all ages.

Senior Ken Jordan said he prefers this type of music. Radio stations like 92.3 WJMO and 93.1 WZAK both play R&B frequently.

"I like Tevin Campbell, Janet Jackson...SWV....but I also like to listen to house and classical," Jordan said.

Like Jordan, many students said they like a variety of music and do not limit themselves to one style. Senior Mara Levi said Janet Jackson is her favorite singer and she enjoys listening to groups like Green Day. She is also a big fan of jazz and classical music and often listens to these types.

Students at the high school have a wide variety of tastes when it comes to what music they prefer, and although the majority of the student population listens to either rap, alternative or R&B, there are also many who like jazz and classical.

So whatever music you are blasting on your walkman, rest assured....there are other students who follow the beat of your drum.

Under 21 and under the influence

Lighting, shooting and snorting up; drugs find way into students' lives

BY MILES BERGER
Staff Reporter

He gets stoned every day, and he uses acid weekly. Every once in a while he "shrooms," and once he even tried crack cocaine. John*, a freshman, said that despite doing all those drugs, he is still able to get good grades.

"I get good grades, mainly A's," John said. "The only side effect from my drug use is that my hands shake. I did have a bad trip once, though. It seemed to last forever. I puked up blood and I just laid there in a cold sweat. It only lasted half an hour, so I knew I wasn't going to die. Bad trips normally last the whole time you are under the effect of the LSD, which is 12 to 20 hours."

Although some students like John frequently use LSD, the most commonly used drug among students is marijuana, according to a Shakerite survey. Marc*, a junior, said that marijuana is a widely used drug among students because it is small and easy to hide, and because students believe it has no serious side effects.

School nurse Evelyn Wisham said, however, that marijuana does have long term effects on the mind. She said studies show that long term marijuana use decreases mental abilities.

According to a flier health teacher Hubert McIntyre gives to his students, marijuana does have several other side effects. It is fat soluble, meaning that chemicals from a single joint will remain in the body for up to three weeks. In contrast, alcohol is metabolized much faster, so the effects of one beer will only last two hours. Also, long-term marijuana use can create mental apathy and indifference. It has also been proven to affect the user's hormones resulting in infertility.

Individual drugs have different effects on the human mind because of the chemicals each contain. Although marijuana and LSD are both considered hallucinogens, there is a great deal of difference in the effect they produce, according to McIntyre.

"Marijuana is nice; it just lets me chill out," John said. "LSD is much stronger, and it lasts much longer. It makes you hallucinate, and it opens your senses so you become aware of everything."

Part of the allure of drugs may come from the fact that many famous people have used them. Kurt Cobain used heroin, the members of Cypress Hill smoke marijuana, and Meat Puppets singer Cris Kirkwood regularly uses LSD.

"I still trip on stage all the time," Kirkwood told a Rolling Stone reporter. "Acid lets you flirt with your will and manipulate time as a quotient."

Drug users said that marijuana side effects are milder than those created by LSD. Users of LSD are subject to random flashbacks that can come at any time and last for varied amounts of time, according to Wisham.

"I was in class and I got the 'feeling'," John said. "Everything became over exaggerated and seemed busy. I saw the ceiling swerve around, and everything started moving around. It only lasted half a minute, but it was kind of cool."

Some students have tried 'hard drugs.' In addition to comparatively milder LSD, psychedelic mushrooms, marijuana and alcohol. Michael*, a sophomore, tried using heroin once.

"When you're on heroin, you feel as if you can control the world," Michael said. "You feel like you can do anything you want to, as if nothing is impossible. It's the best high I have ever felt."

Michael never used heroin again, because he said it felt too good, and he would get addicted to it too quickly.

Many students said they feel that there is nothing schools can do to stop student drug abuse.

"I had plenty of drug education," Marc said. "No matter what they teach, people will use them anyway."

John said that the school has difficulty in keeping students off drugs because teachers do not teach what he believes to be the truth about substance abuse.

"[Drug use] is not as bad as they tell you, except for hard stuff like crack and heroin," John said. "There are fewer health risks in smoking marijuana or dropping acid than there are in regularly smoking cigarettes."

Wisham disagreed with John.

"Back in the '60s, we were told that drugs possessed creativity-enhancing effects on people like musicians," Wisham said. "Now all those people, like Jimi Hendrix, are dead."

**names have been changed to protect students' identities*

Students and professionals say no to addiction, drug abuse

BY KIP BRITT
Staff Reporter

You watch helplessly as a car careens over the edge of a cliff. "All because of drugs," a faceless voice says. As the car explodes, you realize the occupants stand no chance for survival. On this solemn note, the drug-free America commercial ends. Depressed and frazzled, you reach for a joint.

While this commercial itself may not be a familiar experience, drug use in our society certainly is.

In a drug study done at Princeton University, monkeys were given the ability to inject themselves with cocaine through an implanted catheter. They continue to do this until they kill themselves.

Statistics show that these animals were doing nothing new. They were merely following in the footsteps of the thousands of addicted people who have died from overdose. Still, students continue to abuse alcohol and drugs according to nurse Evelyn Wisham.

"The first time or two [doing drugs] is experimenting," Wisham said. "You keep it up after that, you do it because you like it."

Indeed, drug use is a well-liked activity according to some students.

"It's fun!" one girl said.

"It's nice," a freshman said.

"I'm for [drug use]," another student said.

Of course, there are some who differ in their views on substance abuse.

"Everyone knows that drugs can be fun, but nobody looks at the down side," a sophomore student said.

Familiar with the "down side" of drugs, Bob Kauffman, a senior chemical dependency counselor at Laurelwood hospital, warns about addictions.

"The only way to never be at risk [of addiction] is never to use [drugs]," Kauffman said. "Now, a lot of people laugh at that, but it's really true. It's just like the only way to be sure not to get pregnant is to not have sex."

Addiction is not the only consequence of continued substance abuse according to Kauffman. Drug use can result in numerous health problems, from breathing difficulty to flashbacks, but addiction is can bring the most consequences. Once addicted, users experience many of the drug's dangerous effects and intense cravings.

And, according to addicted students, frequent substance abuse is certainly something to avoid.

"I hate being addicted, because it takes all my money, and I can't afford it," a cigarette smoker said.

This student recognizes his addiction, but dependency on alcohol or heavier drugs is less recognized by users.

"Part of being addicted is not seeing or believing it," Kauffman said.

Because his problem may be invisible to him, close friends or family are often the ones to recognize a user's addiction and help him to help himself. A student now undergoing treatment for his addiction to marijuana shares this view.

"When you're chemically dependent, your thinking gets altered," he said. "Your whole perception of life gets altered. You justify [your drug use] and you believe it. I believed it, even though way deep inside I knew that with God it was wrong. But until you get the chemical out of your system, your thinking is always on a different wavelength."

Being on a different wavelength, according to Kauffman, is what allows a teenager to be unaware of an addiction despite symptoms. These symptoms include dropping grades, changes in friends, apathy, defensiveness, and an uncaring attitude towards cleanliness or personal hygiene.

According to statistics, close friends of a chemically dependent individual are commonly unaware of the problem; it is even more common for the addicted person to deny any dependency. This invisible dependency is a risk that most health professionals say is not worth taking.

"I don't think it's worth laying your life on the line for a few moments of questionable pleasure," Wisham said. "Happiness is a personal responsibility, and we can find lots of constructive ways to be happy."

Bottoms Up

Bottles are tipping back and students share the motives behind the method

BY STEPHANIE HOLLOWAY AND EMILY TROIA
Staff Reporter and Co-Centerpiece Editor

It is Friday 10th period. The clock ticks to the teacher's unbearable monotone. With the weekend just minutes away, no one is paying attention to what is on the board; the only calculations in many teenagers' heads are just how many beers they will drink tonight.

"Friday afternoon is rough. The whole week of working hard and being good makes some partying on the weekend very necessary," one junior said.

Not everyone drinks, but with 50 percent of the student body drinking according to a Shakerite survey, alcohol is an undeniable part of many teenagers lives. The motives for drinking vary.

"The reason why I drink depends on where I am and who I'm with," another junior said. "If I'm at a party or something where everyone is drinking, then I feel more comfortable drinking too. If I'm with friends, then I just drink to relax."

Many students agreed that drinking is a great way to leave pressures and daily stress behind, at least temporarily.

"I just drink so I can kick back and hang with my friends for a few hours. We all just mellow out and forget about this paper and that test and our college applications," a senior said.

The relaxing effects of alcohol go beyond forgetting stress many students said. Drinking helps them to be themselves and lose their inhibitions.

"I go out dancing and I just want to dance the way I want to dance, whatever feels right. If I'm all nervous about what everyone around is thinking I can't do that," a sophomore said.

Another motive for drinking is peer pressure according to some students.

"Everyone says, 'Oh yeah, there's no such thing as peer pressure,' but there is," a freshman said. "It isn't direct or anything, but I always feel weird if my senior friends are all drinking and I'm not."

One senior, who does not drink, said she feels people judge others for choosing to abstain.

"I hate the fact that people think that just because I don't drink, I don't know how to have fun. I can have fun just kickin' it. The whole idea of drinking to have fun is so stupid to me," she said.

While some students said they believe peer pressure to be a reason behind alcohol use, other students said that adults place too much blame on peer pressure as a reason students drink.

"Adults always give the big lecture on resisting peer pressure and not drinking just because your friends are, but did it ever occur to them that we want to drink?" a sophomore said. "We do still have brains and backbones. When I want to drink, I drink, when I don't, I don't. It's that simple."

One senior said that he thinks drinking can be a sophisticated indulgence when handled properly. If a situation warrants alcohol, then he enjoys it but does not search out big parties he said.

"I would rather sit at home and drink that [illegible] sit in a basement and drink piss in a can," he said. "I think drinking is wonderful and has much merit, but I drink wine when wine is called for, gin and tonics before nice dinners and good beer if I'm out shooting pool or dancing or something."

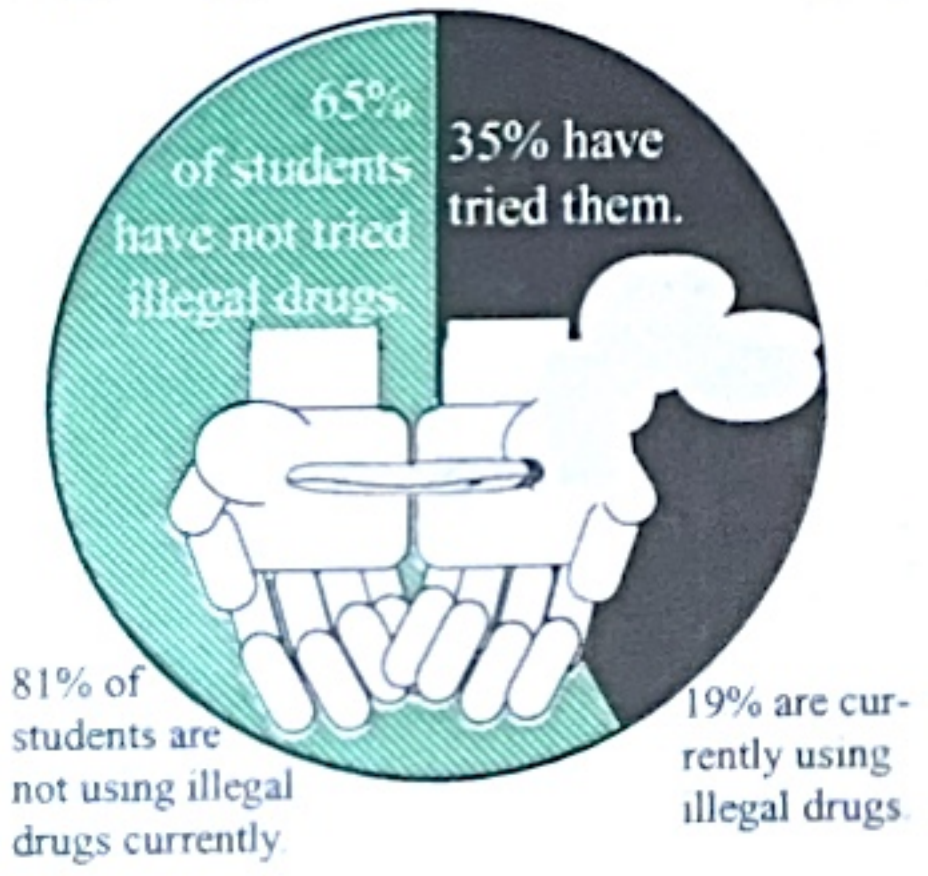
High school students are underage to be able to purchase alcohol, and therefore must obtain it illegally. Many students said, however, that this did not present a problem.

"I never have to buy alcohol; it's always there when I arrive (at parties or gatherings). My friends' brothers and sisters buy it for us, and don't really care if we drink. Besides, some stores will sell alcohol to minors and don't care if they're underage. They just want to make money," a junior said.

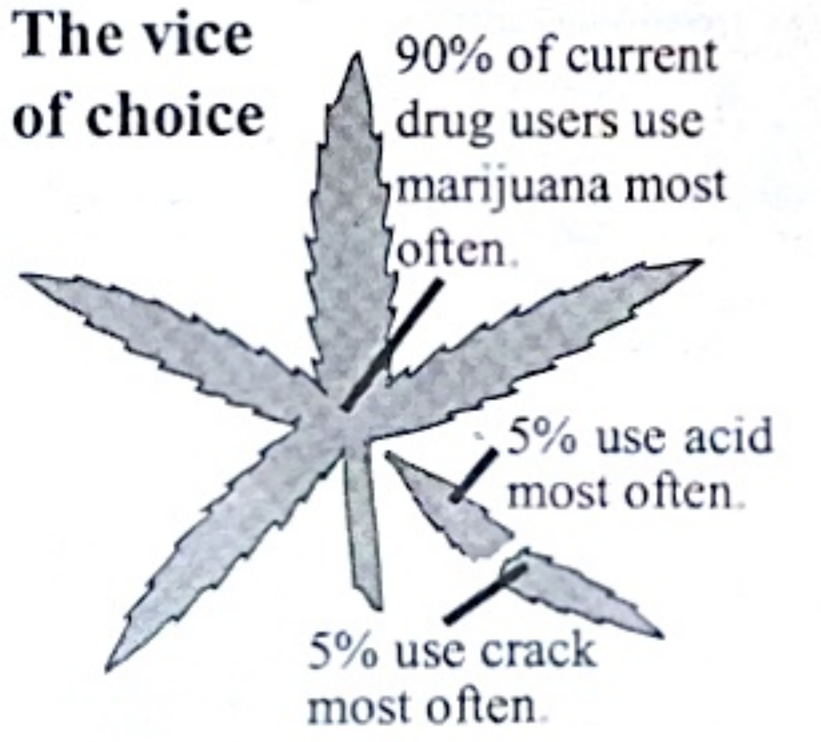
Whatever people's motives for drinking, many wild tales have come out of their experiences. Students said that memories they have of being really drunk, while scary at the time, they find often find later to be humorous.

"One night, I drank three shots of vodka, three shots of tequila, three gin and tonics and three beers to wash it down. I was so smashed," a senior bragged. "I remember my brother trying to get me home. I lost a shoe, puked in my hat, fell asleep in a gutter and couldn't even walk. Looking back, I know I could have died and think that's pretty scary, but still find the whole situation sort of funny."

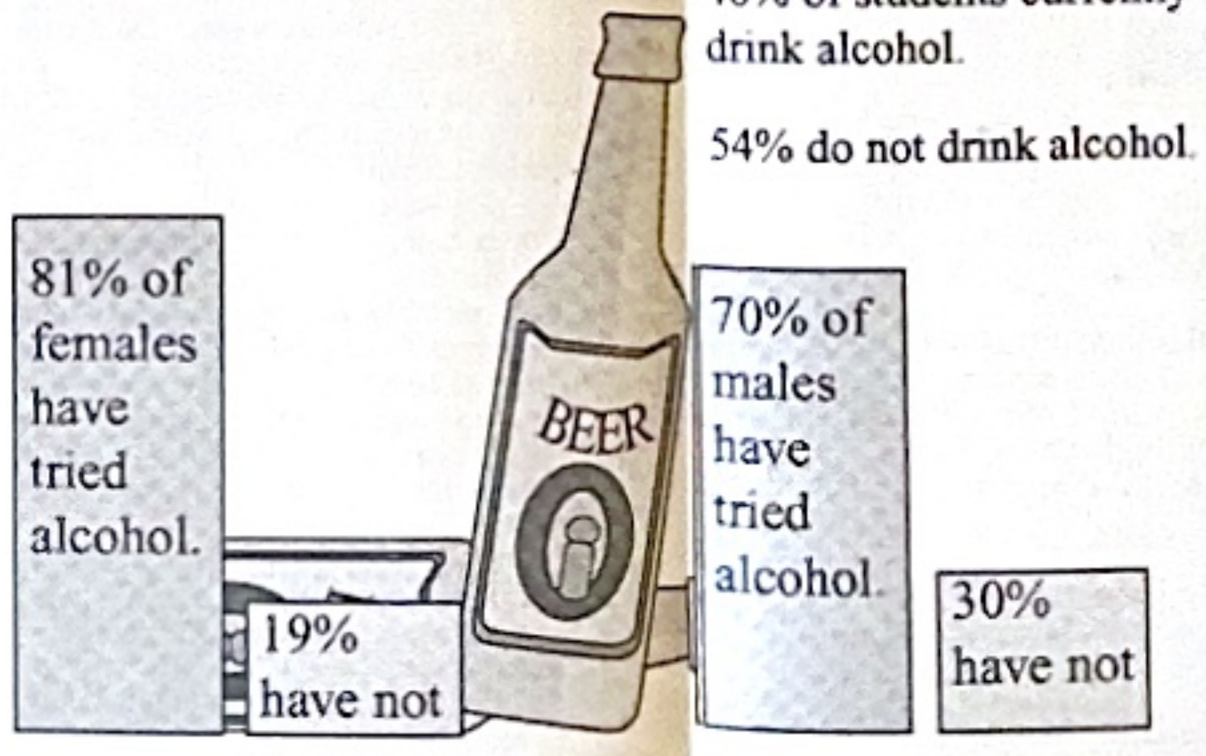
Lighting, shooting and snorting up



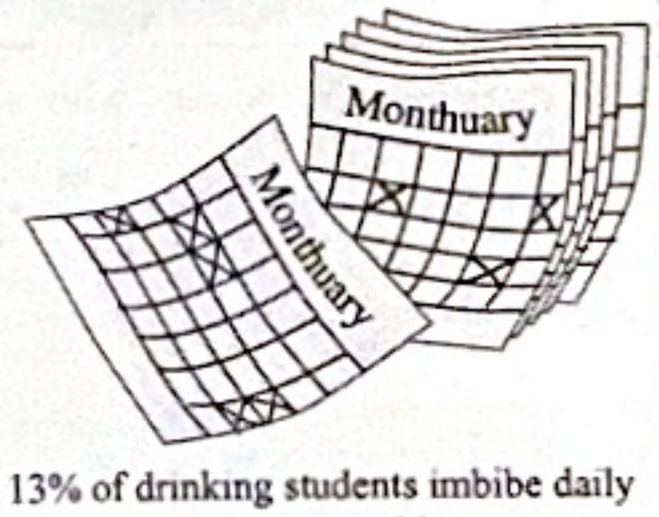
The vice of choice



Alcohol's undeniable influence



A common occurrence



13% of drinking students imbibe daily
7% drink 3-5 times weekly.
13% drink 1-2 times weekly.
42% drink 1-2 times monthly.
10% drink a few times a year.

25% of drug users get high daily
20% get high 3-5 times weekly.
15% get high 1-2 times weekly.
30% get high 1-2 times monthly.
10% get high a few times a year.

Shakerite survey of 200 students

The reasons why

20% of students use drugs or alcohol to relieve stress.

30% use one or the other as entertainment.

7% use one to make socializing easier.

4% use one to gain acceptance from a peer group.

4% use one because of peer pressure.

10% use one to escape problems.

25% use one for a pleasing physical effect.

Theatre department makes *Oliver!* a success

BY LESLIE SIMON
Staff Reporter

Oliver.

What do people think of when they hear this word? Oliver North? Olives? Oliver Stone?

"I think of a new experience," junior Lauren Kirchenbaum said. "Something that I get to work with and get a different view on."

What does this have to do with Shaker? The theatre department picked *Oliver!*, the famous Broadway play, as the newest addition to the family of fall musicals.

Oliver was directed and produced by James Thornton, theatre department head. Thornton has been at Shaker for 16 years, and has directed 12 major productions, along with most of the fall productions.

"[*Oliver*] has themes relevant today that spark interest. It gives good acting roles, appeal, and is able to be staged," Thornton said.

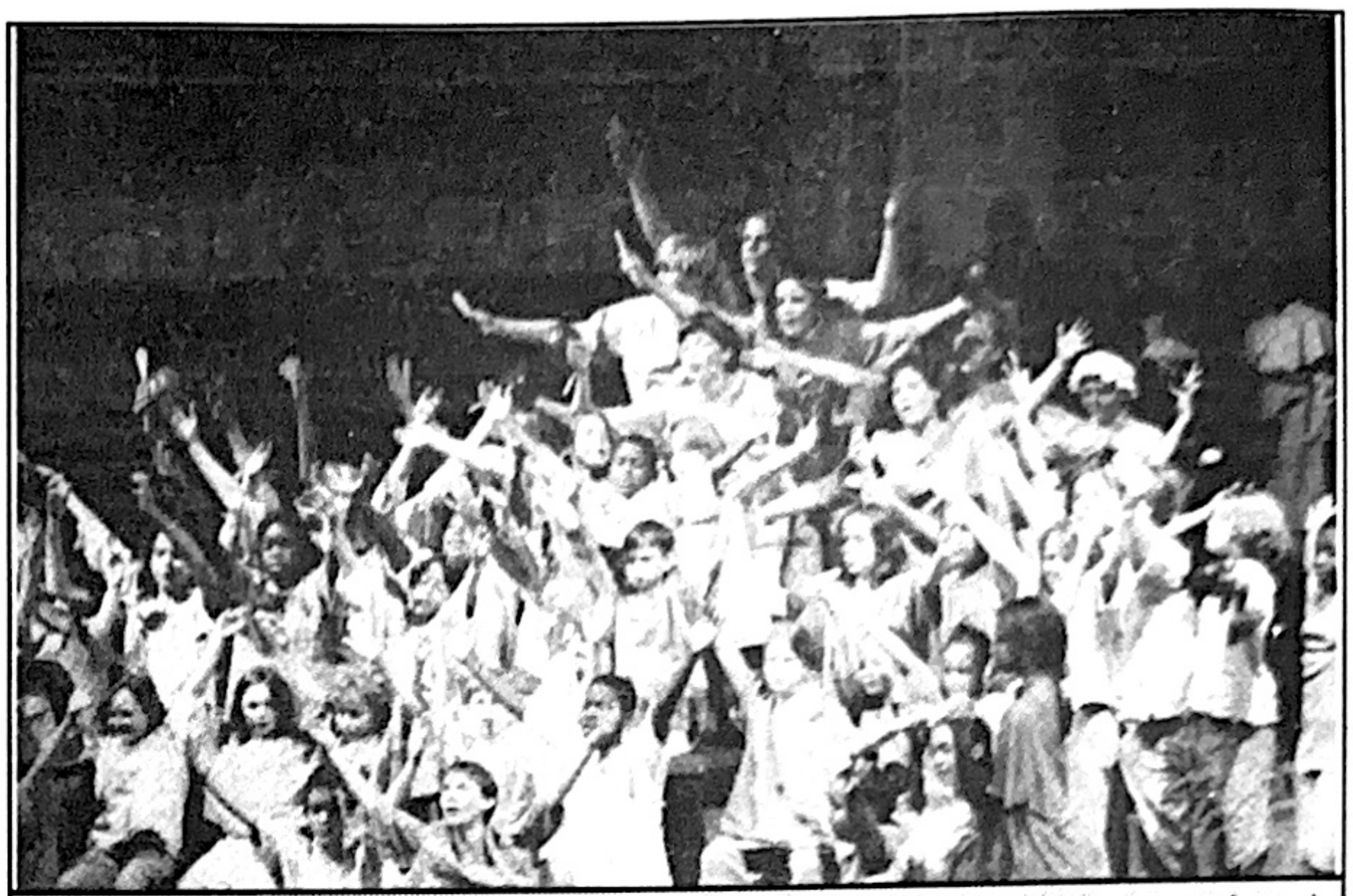
For those who are not familiar with the storyline of *Oliver*, Thornton explained that it is based on Charles Dickens' classic novel.

It is the story of a young orphan boy, Oliver, who grows up in a workhouse during the 1850's. He begins to cause trouble, and is soon sold to work for an undertaker. Oliver has problems there, then runs away to London, and gets involved with a pack of thieves. It is then discovered that his real mother and grandfather were wealthy people, and Oliver must face a reunion with his real family.

Assisting Thornton with the production were juniors Cathy Powell and Kirchenbaum, while sophomore Betsey Shermer acted as the assistant to the director.

"I did originally try out for a role, but I wanted a different aspect," said Kirchenbaum. "You have to try all of your options. It's like when you go to Baskin Robbins. You can't just have one flavor, you have to try them all before you can decide which one you like the best."

The cast consisted of around 60 high school students, with the addition of the Middle School and Woodbury choruses. The principle roles were portrayed by freshmen as well as seniors according to Thornton. He also said that one of the most interesting elements of this play was the casting of Fagan, the man who runs an establishment for pick-pockets, as a woman, played by Melissa Frieman.



SING IT! The company of *Oliver!* shows their stuff during one of their performances in early December. The show featured several twists in casting, including a female Fagan and a taller Oliver.

Shakerite photo courtesy of Joel Rathbone

Thornton also admitted that with the casting of senior Joel Rathbone as Oliver, he hoped to achieve a sympathetic sense that people could relate to.

The casting of characters was a difficult task, Thornton said. He said that it was a combination of acting ability and physical appearance that determined the character.

"How people look is a big part of whether they can carry a role or not. But it's not just whether they are blonde, or *if* they have blue eyes, or a male, or if they are white, black, or Asian. It's something different from that," Thornton said.

Other major roles included the evil Bill Sykes, portrayed by junior Billy Zavelson, and his sweet girlfriend Nancy, played by senior Rebecca Schaberg. The Sowerberrys, the owners of the funeral parlor, were played by sophomore Briana Adato and junior Owen Maresh, while their daughter Charlotte was played by senior Rachael Herrup-Morse.

Adato explained that she played the role of Mrs. Sowerberry, who oversees the *undertaker*. She is described as a rude, mean, loud, nag of a woman.

"I couldn't act like a nice high school student. I had to act like a 50-year old nagger," Adato said.

Senior Geoff Hardman, who played the Artful Dodger, an ace pick-pocket, said that he and his character have much in common.

"He's upbeat, and always happy. He's also kind of crafty. It's the role that is the most me. I had a lot of fun doing it," Hardman said.

According to sophomore chorus member Sara Spagnuolo, the performances went better than expected.

"*All of the hard 10 pm rehersals paid off. The cast was wonderful, and I would like to thank everyone who came to check the show out,*" said Spagnuolo.

Boyz II Men album a hit, Aerosmith jams in Cleveland

✌ **The Boyz are back.** After a year long break, Boyz II Men have returned with their new smash album "II." The album is reminiscent of their debut album "Motown Philly," yet it features a newer, more mature sound.

Following the death of their manager Khalil Rountree, Boyz II Men were looking to preserve the Boyz II Men style he helped to create. They hired successful producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, along with Babyface. Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis have produced songs for hit artist Janet Jackson, while Babyface helped Toni Braxton's album go gold. The combination worked and their debut song "I'll Make Love to You" was an immediate hit.

The growth and maturity of Boyz II Men since their first album can clearly be seen in the sophistication of their lyrics. "I'll Make Love to You," is not just a song about sex, it is about making love and being in love. A guaranteed hit from the album, "Down on Bended Knee," is an emotional melody about the ending of a relationship. The album features a remake of the Beatles hit song "Yesterday." Boyz II Men gave the song a new flavor, but the song still remains as rich as the original. The "Andante," or slow side also includes other dynamic songs such as "Water Runs Dry" and "50 Candles."

The "Allegro," or fast side is the combination of upbeat and uplifting songs. The first song on the album, "Thank You," is a dedication to all the fans who have supported them through the years. The side also features the funky songs "All Around the World" and "U Know."

"II" continues the success of Boyz II Men music. Shawn, Nate, Mike, and Wayna will not disappoint you. They have proved that their last album definitely was not the end of the road.

—Stephanie Holloway

✌ **Aerosmith** stormed into Gund Arena on Dec. 1 and gave the 18,000 in attendance what they had paid for–a lesson in hard, unadultered rock and roll.

The two–hour, 20 song set featured all of their new hits as well as a few tasty old tunes.

The band, which has been on tour for the past 18 months, opened the show with the rock–and–rap of "Eat the Rich." They continued throughout the concert to showcase their lastest album, "Get A Grip," which was the first album from the band to reach number one on the Billboard Music charts. They acknowledged this achievement by playing "Fever," "Crazy," "Cryin'," and "Walk On Down."

"Janie's Got a Gun" featured a psychedelic light show and "What it Takes" and "Love in an Elevator" were graced by some quality jamming by lead guitarist Joe Perry.

The best parts of the show, however, came when the band played some of their old material from the 70's. A beautiful "Seasons of Wither" stole the show and a rocking "Toys in the Attic" got the concert off to a rolling start after "Eat." The real highlight of the show, however, came during the set–closing "Sweet Emotion" when Perry and guitarist Brad Whitford jammed on Led Zeppelin's "Dazed and Confused."

The band returned for an encore consisting of "Dream On," "Livin' on the Edge," and "Walk This Way."

—Jonathan Harris

Winter breaks, man

BY JONATHAN HARRIS
Co–Arts & Entertainment Editor

Finally.

We have been through 15 hellish weeks, 107 unbearable days, and countless hours and minutes, and it is finally here. Winter break.

Many of you are probably thinking, "what can we do during break?" Well, my job is to tell you.

For seniors, the possibilities are endless. We can party, sleep, eat, party, sleep, party, and either eat or party some more.

For the underclassmen, there are some limitations. You can, however, have your mommy take you sledding or drop you off at the mall.

Really though, when the white stuff comes down, there is cool stuff to do:

✻ **The Chalet** Toboggan on two refrigerated 1,000 foot ice chutes, operating with or without snow through February. Prices range from $5 on Thursdays to $7 all other days. Call 572–9990.

✻ **Alpine Valley** In the heart of the snowbelt! Ski the challenging slopes located on Mayfield Road in Chesterland. Children's specials available for underclassmen. Call 285–2211 or 729–9775.

✻ **Boston Mills/Brandywine** More powdery slopes in the Cleveland area. Call 467–2242 for prices and directions.

Well, now that you know what to do on snow, on to entertainment. Over break there are several good movies you can see as well as sporting events like the Cavs and Lumberjacks at the Gund Arena.

Unfortunately, musical pickings are quite slim because during the holidays most bands go home or play holiday shows in bigger cities like New York or Los Angeles. Here are the shows worth mentioning:

What's Goin' On?

✎ **Boyz II Men with Babyface** Sunday, Jan. 1 at the Gund Arena. $30 reserved. Don't forget special guest Tevin Campbell!

✎ **Nine Inch Nails** Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Cleveland State University Convocation Center. Guests will include The Jim Rose Circus and Pop Will Eat Itself.

✎ **Ekoostik Hookah** will play at the Odeon on Dec. 21. This band is another impressive local band that features long, tight jams and high–energy shows. Definitely a band that should be checked out.

All of these tickets are available at Ticketmaster outlets or by credit card at 241–5555.

Get into the winter spirit with some quotes from *The Nutcracker*:

✱ "Doctor Drosselmeyer reaches deep within the folds of his satin cape and slowly withdraws a finely carved Nutcracker."

✱ "Great gray mice pour into Clara's room, led by a ferocious mouse with seven heads-the Mouse King."

✱ "The Nutcracker turns and faces Clara. He is no longer a doll. He is now a young Prince."

✱ "Clara and the Prince join hands and dance, and they dance far into the night. And as they dance their final waltz, pink and gold clouds flow about them and the pale sun begins to rise."

Shakerite source: The Nutcracker by Rachel Isadora

Look on the bright side: Winter weather can bring on the blues

BY DEBBIE LIBMAN
Co-Feature Editor

The days grow shorter and the temperature falls rapidly. What was once a grassy meadow is now covered with a cold white blanket of snow. Sleds and skis replace bicycles and skateboards. Ice cream turns to hot cocoa and scarecrows to snowmen.

This annual change in seasons is what most view as a natural phenomena, a part of life in Cleveland, Ohio. But others perceive this adjustment as a depressing time, four months of gray skies and blue feelings. These people may be suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder, commonly known as SAD, a condition that affects millions of Americans each year.

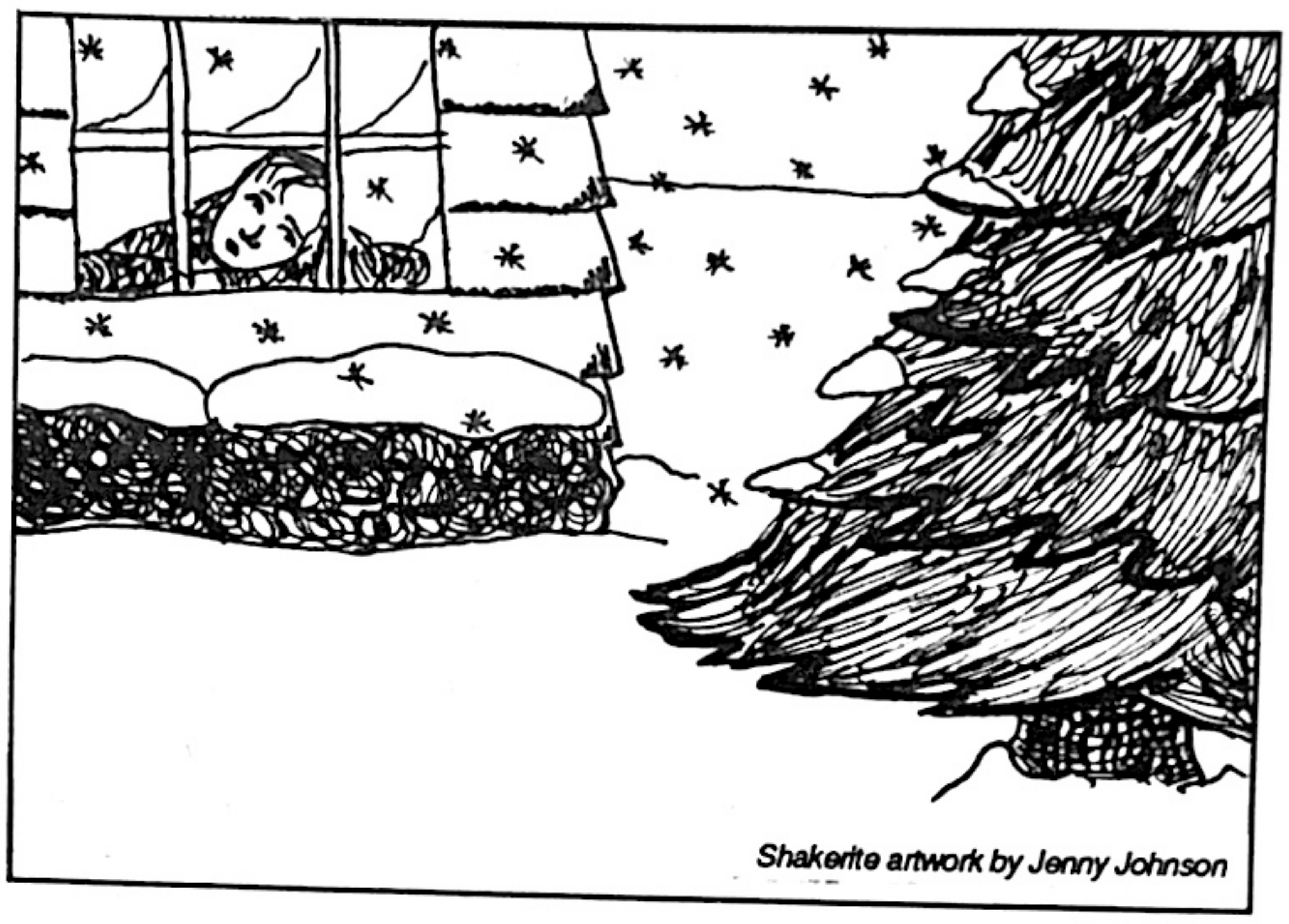
SAD is a result of lack of sunlight, according to Stephen Rae in *Madamoiselle*.

"A string of cloudy days in July can trigger SAD symptoms in highly susceptible patients, and SAD is also found in warm regions," Rae said. "Therefore, [National Institute of Medical Health] researchers originally suspected that the decreased amount of sunlight in winter, rather than the colder temperatures, underlies the condition."

Symptoms of SAD may vary, but most patients suffer from tiredness, depression, irritability and weight gain as a result of excessive eating and carbohydrate craving, *Consumers' Research* said.

Psychologist Paul Becker said sadness and low energy are also common symptoms of the disorder.

"When you get depressed, you tend to eat a lot. You get tired and you want to sleep a lot," Amy*, a SAD sufferer, said.



Shakerite artwork by Jenny Johnson

Amy added that, particularly in January and February, she loses interest in her schoolwork. She uses her outside activities to keep her motivated.

Some students who do not suffer from SAD feel that a way to defeat the winter blues is by keeping busy with enjoyable activities.

"During the wintertime I don't feel depressed," senior Eric Abrams said. "Usually what I do to take up time is to do some of my favorite hobbies like play games or go play in the snow."

Junior Doug Lee agreed with Abrams.

"I like to read, write and draw to keep myself busy," Lee said. "There is always something you can find to do."

Freshman Dean Hulett said he is actually more content with cold weather because it makes him calm and relaxed. Warmer temperatures put him in a bad mood more easily.

Keeping busy may save some people from feeling winter depression, but SAD sufferers often require medical treatment to overcome the problem.

"I try to stay in a lot of light and raise [my] spirit artificially," Amy said. "I try to maintain a positive attitude through the darker times of the year."

Formerly, the only known method of treatment was making a patient stare at huge bright lights every morning, according to Becker. This technique helps the patient overcome the depression.

Now more modern techniques have been discovered, Rae said.

Researchers have worked with a "light visor" that allows SAD sufferers to participate in normal functions while being treated. The visor is worn during the day as an alternative to staring at lights. Another possible method of treatment is a "dawn simulator" that brightens the room as the patient sleeps, according to Jaret.

Amy said that she finds it most important to keep a healthy and constant sleeping schedule in the winter.

The disorder itself is both physical and mental, Becker said. It is a physical response to the lack of sunlight with psychological effects.

"Anything is mind and body," according to Becker.

Junior Ethan Hyche said though he never notices depression during the winter months, once spring comes he realizes the burden that the cold weather caused.

"I haven't experienced an Ohio winter yet," Hyche, formerly from Canada, added.

Freshman Annie Xu said she is able to avoid winter depression.

"I like to start a fire in the fireplace and have a lot of family members around," Xu said.

With the first snowfall behind us and days of subfreezing temperatures quickly increasing, a fire in the fireplace sounds soothing and reviving.

For some, the cold winter days mean *skiing, sledding, skating, winter vacation,* snowmen, and candycanes. *For others it* means dark nights and depression. Fortunately, there are ways to ease the effects of the wintertime blues.

* name of student has been changed

FYI

Chill out and take a break

Although the last month may have seemed tedious and unbearable to most students, the truth is that the time between Thanksgiving and winter break has flown by.

Whether it's spending two quiet, restful weeks at home, or traveling to some exotic paradise, students agree that the break is long overdue.

Check out some ways your classmates plan to spend their vacation:

"Over winter break I am going to spend a lot of time with my friends and get in shape for lacrosse season," sophomore Lesley Federman said.

"I am going to Louisiana to visit my relatives and we are going to New Orleans," sophomore Page Smith said.

"I'm going home to Chicago... I'm going to work out with my son to get back into shape," social studies teacher Chuck Spinner said.

"I am taking a road trip to Boston with my friends," junior Eric Stout said.

"I'm going to Massachusetts or Washington D.C. to celebrate Christmas with my Jewish family," senior Mara Levi said.

"Over winter break I am going to the Bahamas for a New Years' party," sophomore Michele Jackson said.

"I'm going to Disneyworld. We're driving with eight people in a van that holds seven... It's not going to be fun!" senior Jon Makela said.

"I'm going to Park City, Snowbird and Deer Valley to ski," sophomore Brent Fuller said.

"I'm celebrating Christmas. I want to do something with my sister. She's probably going to Key West," junior Shelley Morrison said.

"I'm going to California for Christmas for the first time to visit my uncle and his new wife," junior Ronessa Simpson said.

"I'm going to Florida on a vacation with my family," sophomore Leslie Zappala said.

"Over winter break I will make my parents mad by asking them for a third phone line and other miscellaneous stuff that costs a lot of money," freshman Paul Ip said.

"During winter break I'll be skating—what else do I do?" sophomore Heather Taylor said.

"During winter break I'm playing basketball and soccer," freshman Geoff Dietrich said.

"I'm going to Canada to ski and visit friends because skiing in Canada is better than here," junior Mark Pozsgay said.

"[My host family and I] are going to Washington D.C. and my parents are coming to visit because in Spain, the vacation is from the 23rd [of December] until Jan. 8. They have an extra holiday called Reyes Magos," sophomore Alicia Salcedo said.

"I'll be at the mall shopping with my friends and going to the movies," freshman Phasha Spencer said.

"My Christmas tree will be really nice after spending all winter bpreak decorating it," sophomore Jill Webster said.

"I'm swimming, swimming, swimming and hanging out with my friends whenever I can," junior Norm Paris said.

"I'm going to St. John's Island to get a tan, and hopefully I'll go to visit my friend at boarding school," sophomore Jennie Streem said.

The time between Thanksgiving and Winter Break was gone in what seemed to be a week rather than a month. Now that the break is practically here, students are planning their vacations. Whether it's just catching up on lost sleep or traveling the world, students agree it's about time for a break.

Shakerite artwork by Esther Rosenfeld

Quotes compiled by Sarah Levin and Amy Johnson

Adoption not always a negative process

BY NICOLE SUTCLIFFE
Staff Reporter

She was only six-months-old when she was brought home from the adoption agency, and she does not remember that day. But she does remember all the love her parents have given her over the years, and she has never felt like anything but a member of the family.

According to *Adoption Choices*, a guidebook to adoption resources written by Ellen Paul, approximately five million Americans, two percent of the population, are adopted.

Until recently, adoption has been secretive in the United States. It was not until 1975 that the government started keeping records. Today there is more of an openness, not only within the government, but with parents informing their children.

"I grew up knowing I was adopted. I think it's better to know at a younger age. If you find out when you are older, it might hurt more," freshman Abigail Bays said.

Junior Danielle Crews agreed with Bays.

"It is a child's right to know that she is adopted," Crews said. "If parents wait to tell their child, it is a sign of insecurity that the child will want to go out and find their real parents."

Those like Crews and Bays who were adopted at an early age, such as two or three months, have no recollection of their biological parents.

"Sometimes when it is raining I will wonder what my birth parents are doing, and what happened to them," Crews said.

Adopting infants is not the only option. According to a study done by Richard P. Bath, 90 percent of adoptions involving older children are successful.

"I lived in an orphanage in South Korea and at age seven I was adopted with my younger brother and sister," sophomore Adam Johnson said.

Adopting siblings does have benefits, because the children have one another with whom to share the experience, according to Laurel Ross of the Cleveland chapter of ACT.

In some situations, though, this is not the case. In families such as the Crews', one child is adopted and one is not.

"There are no problems with this because my parents have tried to emphasize that just because I am adopted and my brother is not does not mean they love him over me. He is younger and may need more attention, but they never make me feel less loved," Crews said.

While children who are adopted may live in supportive and loving families, there still are questions about birth parents and medical information. The problem is that states have different laws regarding the obtaining of this information.

Laws in Ohio say that adoptees whose adoptions were finalized before Jan. 1, 1964 have the right to obtain records. Information about adoptions after this date remain closed, even after the adoptee has reached adulthood. The law also states that neither birth parents nor adoptive parents can access any records regarding the adoptee regardless of the date of adoption.

"When I get older I will go to the hospital and look up my history, not for the names of my birth parents, but for medical reasons, like breast cancer. I would like to know what I should watch out for," Crews said.

The family backgrounds are not always accurate, according to William Pierce of the National Committee for Adoptions.

"Mothers are often under a great deal of pressure and do not want to have to deal with all of the questions the agencies ask, so they go through lawyers," Pierce said.

Many adopted children agreed that if they did find their real parents, they would like to find out why they were put up for adoption.

"I would ask what the problem was and why they decided to give me up," Johnson said.

Crews feels that if her birth parents found her, they would have nothing more then a friendship.

"Just because they gave birth to me doesn't give them the right to act as my mom and dad. My parents are my parents because they raised me. If I find my birth parents, we could be acquaintances and talk on a first name basis, but nothing more," Crews said.

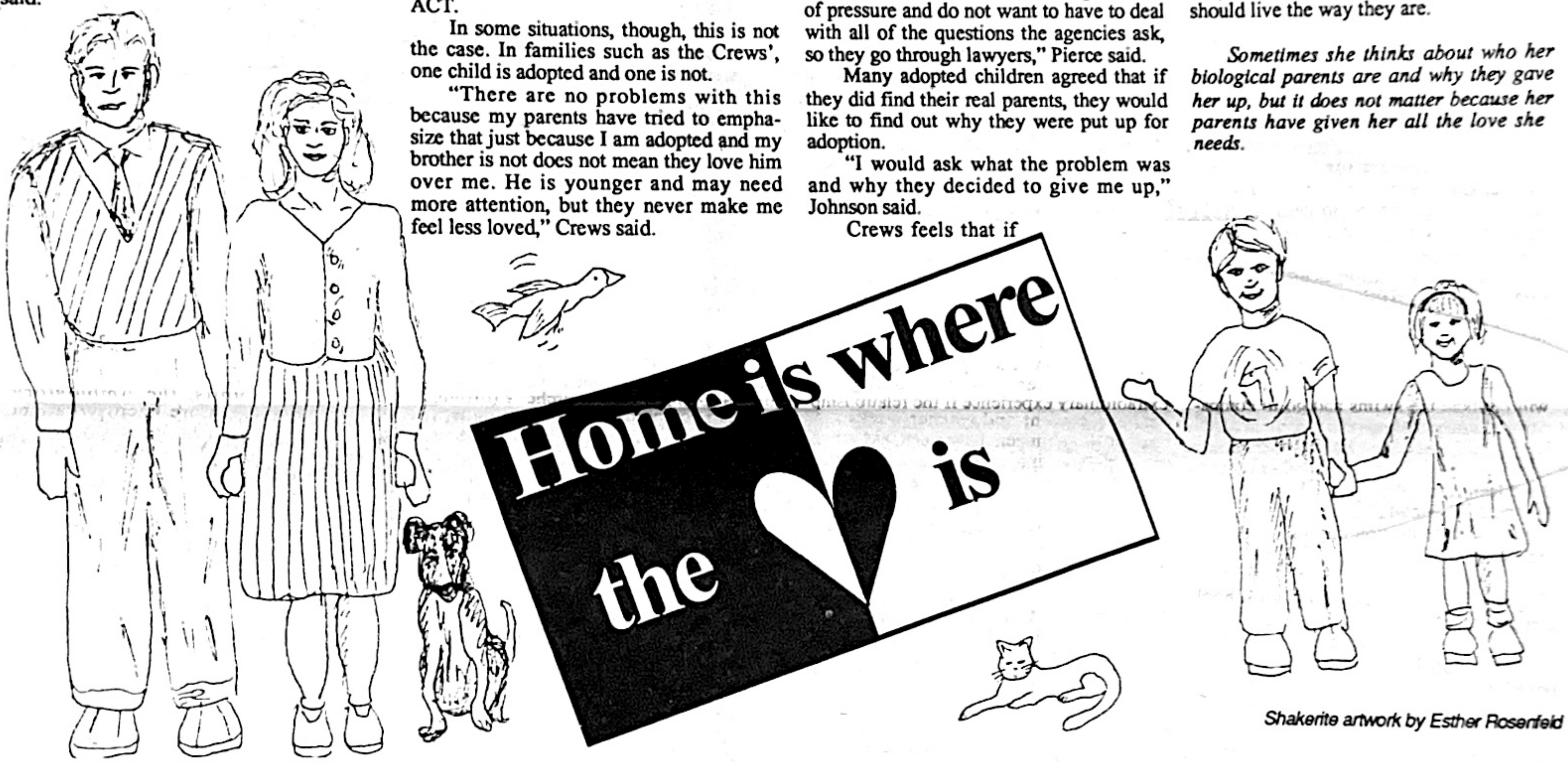
Through their experiences, some think they will adopt when they are older.

"I probably will adopt just because I feel it is something good to do. It was something that I went through, and it is done for the good of the child," Johnson said.

Bays said she has a positive outlook on adoption and the process of adopting. She tells those who find out they are adopted that their birth parents gave them life, but their real parents are the ones who love and care about them.

Johnson said he agreed with Bays but also feels that adopted children should not think about what would have happened if they were with their birth parents and should live the way they are.

Sometimes she thinks about who her biological parents are and why they gave her up, but it does not matter because her parents have given her all the love she needs.



Shakerite artwork by Esther Rosenfeld

'Till death do us part': When marriages die early

BY SCOTT FULLER
Staff Reporter

He remembers a few years back, when his parents had proudly displayed their wedding album to him and his brother, laughing over memories of their honeymoon.

Now he sits looking through the pages of the album alone, wondering what had happened to his family.

In 1867, the Bureau of the Census compiled its first set of divorce figures. The current divorce rate it compiled is 16 times greater than it was then.

According to the Bureau of the Census, approximately 20 percent of all children in the United States today are living with only one parent. This 20 percent includes many students from our school, whose stories are different and yet surprisingly similar.

Anne* is the daughter of a divorced couple. She used to have problems concentrating on her work because of the divorce, but she has overcome these problems over time. Some other children, however, are not so fortunate.

The long lasting effects of divorce on a child cannot be determined without analyzing how the divorce was handled by the family, according to school psychologist Bonnie Jasiunas.

"[The effect on the child] depends on how much information their parents gave them. Some parents choose to tell their kids what's happening, but some don't tell them until much later when they're older," Jasiunas said. "Usually it is best that their parents give them as much information as possible. But they need to take into consideration the development of the child."

Jasiunus said an extremely tough question is whether it is healthier for children to live with a single parent or with both parents in an unhappy environment.

Bill* is glad his parents got divorced rather than being unhappy living together.

"It was healthier for them and healthier for me. I was pretty young and pretty confused then. They didn't tell me why [they got divorced] until later. They said it was because they didn't love each other anymore. I never really blamed myself for it like a lot of other people do," Bill said.

Jasiunus said that many students are confused about their parents' divorce.

"The main problem I have with kids whose parents are divorced is that they have so many feelings they can't express. Many of them blame themselves that they did something to make their parents separate," Jasiunus said.

While Bill lives with his dad and visits his mother in Michigan once or twice a month, and Carl* visits his father twice a year in Florida, not all students are still on good relations with both of their parents.

"My dad and I used to be really cool," Donna* said. "He used to take me ice skating at Thornton."

Donna said her parents drifted apart when her father started taking care of another woman and her kids, and her dad did not seem to want to be a part of her life anymore.

Ellen*, whose parents got divorced two years ago, said she hates her dad and does not want to talk to him because she has seen what he has done to their family.

To prevent this troublesome experience for children, some countries, like Ireland and the Philippines, have passed laws to make divorce illegal. The students interviewed all rejected this idea for our country.

"I don't think that's right," Carl said, whose parents got divorced when he was three years old. "They shouldn't force people to be together."

Bill also said he thinks those laws are unfair.

"The government shouldn't decide for [the couple]. It should be their decision," Bill said.

Bill, however, like the rest of the students, agrees this might make a couple think more carefully before getting married.

Jasiunus supports either a trial period for marriage or an increase in the difficulty of getting a marriage license to limit the number of divorces, rather than laws prohibiting divorce.

"That would break the fundamental laws of freedom of choice. You can't tell how a marriage is going to work out until you have lived with that person first," she said.

Through all the similarities, the main difference in the students' opinions of divorce is whether or not they wished their parents were still together.

"I think once my parents got divorced, they had more opportunities," Ellen said.

Others students still hope their parents will get back together.

"Sometimes I wish they were still together," Carl said.

Donna said there is no way she would want her parents to be back together again. But, she said, "I miss my father as a friend."

*names of students have been changed

VOLUNTEER

Community organizations need help from students

By Katie Edelstein

Holidays mean giving and receiving, and volunteer organizations are looking for determination from teenagers who want to give of themselves this season.

Some students feel that volunteering can be rewarding.

"My best experience was when the patients [at St. Luke's Hospital] wanted to talk to me. They treated me almost like a grandchild and asked me about school and my family," senior Jessica Petler said. "They were always happy to see young people [volunteering] in the hospital."

Although the holiday season may spark some "giving spirit," according to volunteer coordinator Laura Barnett, organizations need the most help in January after the rush of the holidays.

Here is a list of volunteer agencies where you can help out:

Karamu House
What: A local theater
Why: Volunteers here can usher and take tickets
How: call Emily Laster at 795-7070

Alzheimers Association
What: A support structure for caregivers of people with Alzheimers
Why: Volunteers are needed for general clerical work such as answering phones and helping with mailings.
How: call 721-8457

Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland
What: An organization to help people in the Greater Cleveland area who have diabetes.
Why: This association needs help with their 10th Annual *Society Bank Swim for Diabetes which will take place on April 9, 1995, which has one site (out of 60) at the Shaker Middle School pool. Volunteers* will promote the swims and go to companies for brochures.
How: call Joanne Rosen at 591-0800

American Red Cross
Where: 3747 Euclid Ave.
What: An organization to promote health and safety
Why: Student volunteers can help organize a blood mobile at their high school and get the room ready for it. They can assemble or donate items (such as soap, toys, and toothpaste) for "friendship boxes" which are sent to children in need or children suffering from a result of a natural disasters. They can do the same for "comfort kits" which go to burn victims.

Volunteers can also be part of the first aid safety team and can support the adult group of volunteers by going out on community events and administering first aid.

Students are needed to help in the office by filing or working on donor and advertisement packets.
How: call Barbara Haynick at 431-3334

Habitat for Humanity
What: an organization that helps low income families build homes
Why: "The Habitat for Humanity would not exist without our volunteers," Dan Willis of Habitat said.

The construction aspect (building homes for low income families) has volunteers on site 90 percent of the time. Here there are various jobs to be done, such as landscaping, painting, and hanging dry wall. Office volunteers are also of value to work with fundraising and outreach, the financial department or with computers.

"I knew I was doing something that would help someone for a long time. It was a big accomplishment," freshman Lisa Lazarus said about her experience at Habitat.

Junior Jenny Spencer appreciated meeting the people in the inner-city neighborhood where she volunteered.

"They're people just like us; they have kids and pets," Spencer said.

Freshman Tim Stenta put insulation on the roof.

"It was fun because my friends and I were in the attic on our own," Stenta said.
When: in the office Monday-Friday, 9a.m.-6 p.m. or on site Saturday 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
How: call Dan Willis at 696-7788

The Shaker Heights Youth Center
What: a counseling agency for anyone who needs to talk about their problems (school, family issues, etc.)
Why: The Youth Center needs help with their various fundraisers, such as "The Great Human Race," mail-a-thon/phone-a-thons, and basketball tournaments. They could also use clerical volunteers.
How: call Michelle Bertman at 752-9292

Project Learn
Age Requirement: 18 years old
What: an adult basic literacy program [teaches adults at a third grade reading level or below how to read]
Why: A volunteer at Project Learn must be trained for 10 hours a month (two consecutive Saturdays for five hours each) and must make a commitment to work one on one with a student for at least a year, using the techniques they have learned to teach the adult student how to read.

"*Project Learn is a rewarding and* extraordinary experience if the relationship between student and teacher works. A number of volunteers have gotten as much out of the tutoring experience as their students have," a representative of Project Learn said.
When: at least twice weekly for 90 minute lessons with the student
How: call 621-9483

The Cleveland Children's Museum
Where: 10730 Euclid Ave. (University Circle)
What: a museum for children ages 3-12 with hands-on activities
Why: Volunteers 14 years and up can be exhibit guides for a minimum of 30 hours. They help improve the visitors' experiences by assisting in activities and helping in the maintenance of the exhibits. Volunteers must go through an orientation and a tour of the museum before volunteering.
When: Orientation is the third Saturday in December from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
volunteer hours: Saturday10 a.m.- 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1-5 p.m.
How: call Mary Anne Machado at 791-7114

Therapeutic Riding Center
Where: at Salmor Stables in Chagrin Valley (on Bell Road)
What: a non-profit program providing educational, recreational and therapeutic equine activities for people with disabilities
Why: Volunteers may lead horses during lessons, walk beside students offering courage and support, as well as help care for horses and assist with ground lesson activities.

"My experience at TRC was wonderful. I liked how the students looked up to me and [how they] were able to function like normal children despite any disability they had," senior Jessica Petler said.

Petler helped the riders during their classes, groomed horses, cleaned stalls and rode the horses to give them extra exercise.

"Volunteering at TRC is a broadening experience because you encounter people of all ages, all walks of life and with different backgrounds," volunteer coordinator Teresa Morris said.
When: two hour training session required
volunteer hours: 2-3 hours a week
How: call Teresa Morris at 564-7224

Mt. Sinai
What: a hospital
Why: Volunteers at Mt. Sinai have a variety of choices. They can work in labs, on the nursing floors, in different offices, on the new baby floor and in the outpatient clinics. A good opportunity for short term volunteering is at their gift shop and greenery, working the cash register and on inventory. Volunteers must work a minimum of four hours a week.

"I really appreciate our student volunteers because they are self motivated and bright, and since they want to learn are willing to work. They have an upbeat, positive attitude and we really respect that," Bonnie Rudolph-German of Mt. Sinai said.
When: varies depending on the department
How: call Bonnie Rudolph German at 421-4029

Meals on Wheels
Where: 16700 Van Aken Blvd. (Shaker Hts. Senior Adult Building)
What: an agency that makes and delivers meals to the elderly and those in need
Why: Meals on Wheels is in need of volunteers to work in the kitchens (dishing food into compartments and putting it in the oven for 15 minutes), to be "jumpers" to take the food into the houses, and to be "drivers" to deliver the meals. Volunteers and substitute volunteers are needed at Christmastime especially.

"My experience with Meals on Wheels was really rewarding. Just seeing their faces and knowing that you're responsible for them eating is great," junior Clo Ewing said.
When: Kitchen work- everyday from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Jumpers and Drivers- 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
How: call 991-6376

Menorah Park
Where: 27100 Cedar Rd. in Beachwood
What: a nursing home for the elderly
Why: At Menorah Park, volunteers read to the residents, help with arts and crafts, work at the ice cream parlor and snack shop, help with pavilion activities, transport residents, play cards with residents and help in the office and day care center.

"One of the most important things we offer is young adult volunteers because they provide something adult volunteers can't give. They represent life and a light for the future; they bring the youth back into these people's lives. As people get older there are a lot of things they can no longer do, and the students help them with these things," Jodi Elman, intergenerational program director of Menorah Park said.
How: call Jodi Elman at 831-6500

Shaker Lakes Regional Nature Center
Where: 20600 S. Park Blvd.
What: a place where children and adults can learn about and spend time in nature
Why: Volunteers here can work outdoors maintaining trails, picking up litter and working on general maintenance. They can help with the early childhood classes, assisting a naturalist (nature teacher), keeping kids together, helping with crafts and snacks, reading a story or leading an activity. Volunteers with artistic talent can do drillings of certain nature topics and help with brochures and applications using clip art. The Nature Center needs help with general clerical work.

"The nature center is a great place to volunteer because it provides a chance to practice a trade while benefitting the community," Karen Seymour, senior naturalist at the Nature Center said.
When: during the week: 9-11 a.m., 1-3 p.m., 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 10-11 a.m. or 10:30-11:30 a.m.
How: call Karen Seymour at 321-5935

Cleveland Food Bank
Where: 1221 E. 26th St. (downtown at Lakeside)
What: a source of food for needy citizens
Why: Volunteers at the Cleveland Food Bank help sort and repackage food.

"Volunteering at the food bank was a lot of work, but it was rewarding knowing you were helping people out. It was a great feeling that whatever I did, someone would appreciate it. They actually need me," sophomore Rakisha Smith said.

Smith packaged food, separated good and bad cans and made boxes.
When: Monday-Thursday 6-9 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
December 22 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
December 27, 28, 29 during the day
* most in need of volunteers in January and February
How: call Emily Holtel at 696-6007

St. Lukes Medical Center
Where: 11311 Shaker Blvd.
What: a hospital
Why: Volunteers of at least 14 years of age can assist in many different areas. Students are needed in the patient care units, the *Ambulatory Care Facility/Patient Discharge Lounge, in Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy,* to assemble patient admission kits, in the playroom and mailroom, and to do clerical work and work on special projects.
When: minimum of four hours a week
How: volunteers must complete a volunteer service application, go through an interview, orientation and training
*call the Volunteer Services Department at 368-7162

Animal Protective League
Age Requirement: 18 years old
What: an animal shelter
Why: At this shelter, volunteers walk dogs, fold newspapers, and stuff envelopes. They also work at different booths at the Alley for Cats in February or March and help at the Dog Walk in May.
How: call Juanita at 771-3031

City Mission
What: a shelter and source of food for the homeless
Why: Office volunteers with typing skills are needed, as well as those to clean buildings, sort clothes, paint and do yardwork.
When: office hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
How: call 431-3510

School Organizations
Interact: Contact Special Education teacher Cindy Finch. This club tutors Cleveland children and volunteers at community agencies
Youth Ending Hunger: Contact Foreign Language teacher Kimberly Ponce de Leon. This organization fights hunger by visiting food banks and raising money.
Environmental Club: Contact Science teacher Robert Sylak.This club recycles and cleans up the community.

Shakerite artwork by Amy Johnson

Shaker athletes named *Plain Dealer* All-Stars

The *Plain Dealer* came out with its all-star lineups for the fall season and Shaker is well represented. Junior Jennifer Webb led the way being named field hockey player of the year. Juniors Gill Grim and Tonia Porras were also on the field hockey all-star team. For football, seniors Chris Kalafatis, Courtney Ledyard and Mike Gantous were named to the all-star team and head coach David Sedmak was named coach of the year.

School spirit improves with football success

BY BRENDAN MASINI
Staff Reporter

"We've got spirit, yes we do, we've got spirit how 'bout you?"

Although, according to students, school spirit has not yet reached the point of frenzy, it is alive and well at Shaker, and the football team's success has only helped things out.

"People in the school either have a lot of school spirit or they have very little," freshman Josh Lichterman said.

Many students have used the success of the football team to boost their own spirit.

"It's good to cheer on teams to victory because when they win you can be more proud of Shaker," freshman Tom Gelehrter said.

As the football team rolled over its opponents on its way to an undefeated 10-0 regular season record, Shaker fans were able to get a taste of what school spirit really is. There were locker posters, giant signs and even red and white clothing on Fridays, the school's designated school spirit day. Most of the lipstick in the stands was not on the spectators lips, but was being used to paint class years on cheeks.

"I think that as a class this year's senior class has great spirit. It's an added bonus to have the football teams' success," senior Shana McCormack said.

Students feel that school spirit is not only for athletics, and that it has to do with how students feel about their school every day.

"School spirit is important because it is a catalyst for students to do their best all the time," sophomore Neal Thomson said.

Some students are showing their spirit more than they ever have.

"I feel more proud to be a part of Shaker. My school spirit is not much higher, but I portray it more," senior Manny Johnson said.

Students are even beginning to get excited about next year's football team.

So until school spirit returns to its previous level, let's see Russell Rupp field sold out, and take the cheerleaders advice...Shake Your Booty!

Football team rules LEL

BY ANGELICA ELLIOT
Staff Reporter

The football team proved its "Attitude is Everything" motto with their perfect 10-0 record in the regular season and a state playoff spot.

The stellar season secured a playoff spot for the team, who then was matched against the top-ranked team in the region, St. Ignatius, who had three Division I State Championship wins under their belt.

There is no doubt about the success this year's team had. Much hard work and dedication went into the team's preparation for its perfect regular season, according to senior Jason Sable.

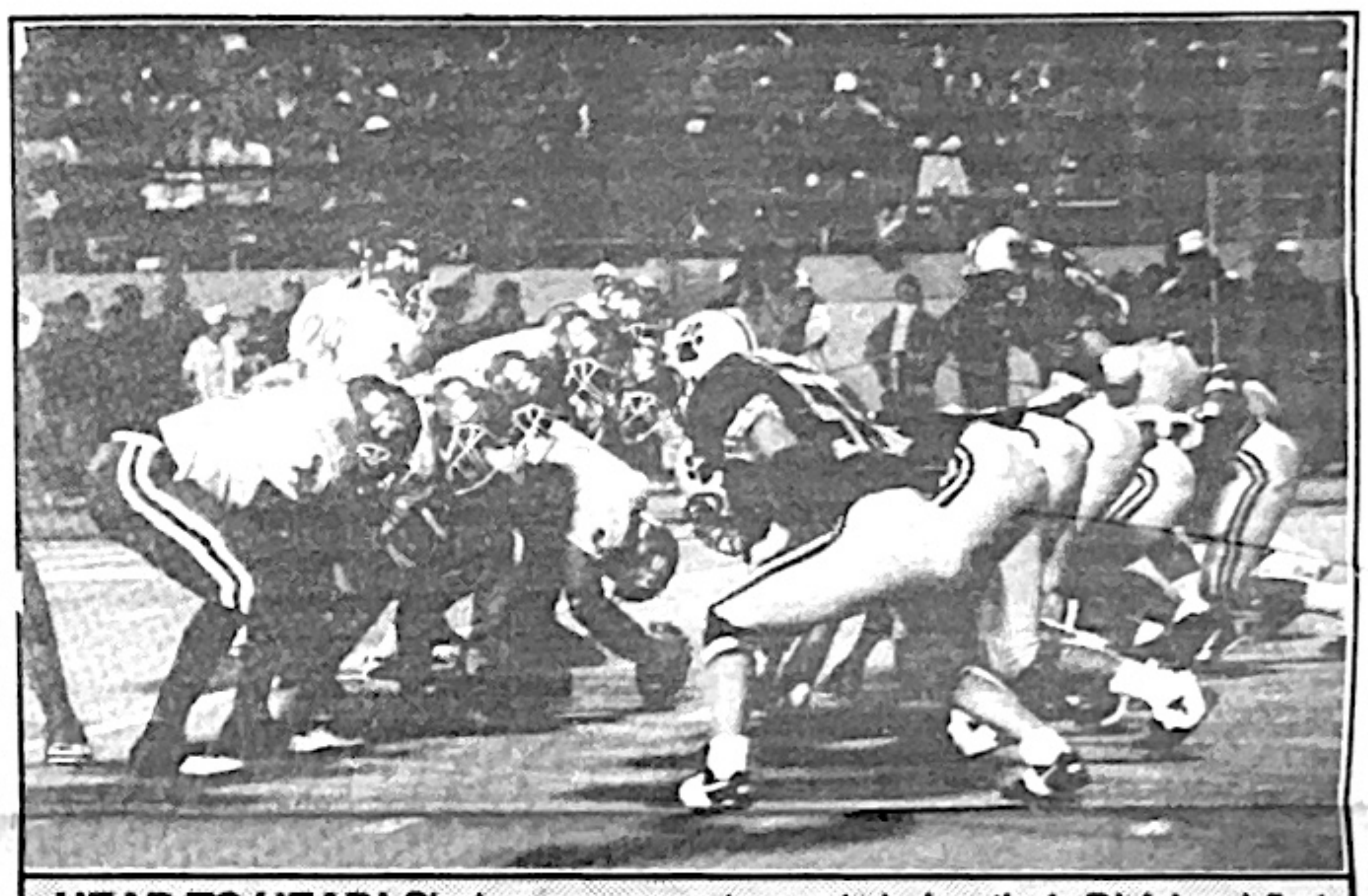
Senior Alex Green attributes the winning season to having strong leadership from the nine senior captains and to physically working harder than in previous years.

"This year's team spent more time in the weight room, and out on the track doing what we had to do," he said.

According to head coach David Sedmak, the team had a more positive attitude, was "much bigger, faster and stronger," and had a greater commitment, and more discipline than in previous years.

"The team was dedicated to being better players," he said.

Sedmak also talked of how committed the players were to each other.


HEAD TO HEAD! Shaker prepares to punt during their Division I first round loss to St. Ignatius. The team made the playoffs after an undefeated regular season.
Shakerite photo by by Larry Latson

"Selfishness is one of the biggest things that ruins a team," he said, expressing the great need for teamwork.

Success also came due to the support of many students, faculty and community residents.

"It made me feel good that so many people came to support us at our games., The school support helped our attitude," senior Cullin O'Brien said.

The St. Ignatius game was a challenge for the team, Green said. Shaker ran over every team up until St. Ignatius, and Green felt there was some pressure going into the Ignatius game.

"[The other teams] wanted a shot at us, but we were hungrier than they were because we had something to prove," Green said.

Sedmak tried to keep his team from feeling too much pressure before big games.

"The things I stressed were to take one game at a time, respect each team we play and don't fear opponents," he said.

O'Brien agreed with his coach.

"Really, the same mentality had to be maintained through every game, regardless of the opposing team's record," he said.

The Ignatius game was the only defeat for the team and was taken in stride.

"We had a chance, but everything had to go right. The biggest thing was that we didn't want the kids to be afraid," Sedmak said.

Despite the team's great efforts, a victory did not happen. After a close start, Shaker botched a few kickoff returns and fell short on a few crucial plays. St. Ignatius was then able to build a considerable lead. Team members seemed to be disappointed with the outcome of the game, but there were not any regrets concerning the overall season.

"I feel bad that we ended on a low note, but we were definitely successful this season," Sable said.

According to Green, the defeat was similar to that of the '85 team, which also went undefeated and lost in the first round of the playoffs to area power St. Edward High School.

"I wanted '94 to be remembered for more than doing what the '85 team did. We feel we could have beat Ignatius," Green said.

Now that the '94 season is complete, there is nothing to do but relish the success and look forward to next year's team, according to Sable. Coaches and players believe the good times will continue.

"I think next year's team should expect nothing less than a 10-0 season. If, and only if, we work hard in the off season, we should have a great season," junior Charley Fuller, who is projected to be next year's starting quarterback, said.

Sedmak agreed that next year's team can look forward to much success.

"I honestly believe we have established an attitude. We will be rebuilding and may not be 10-0, but we will be successful," he said.

The '95 football team revitalized the spirit of football in the school community. Next season's team now has a foundation to build upon.

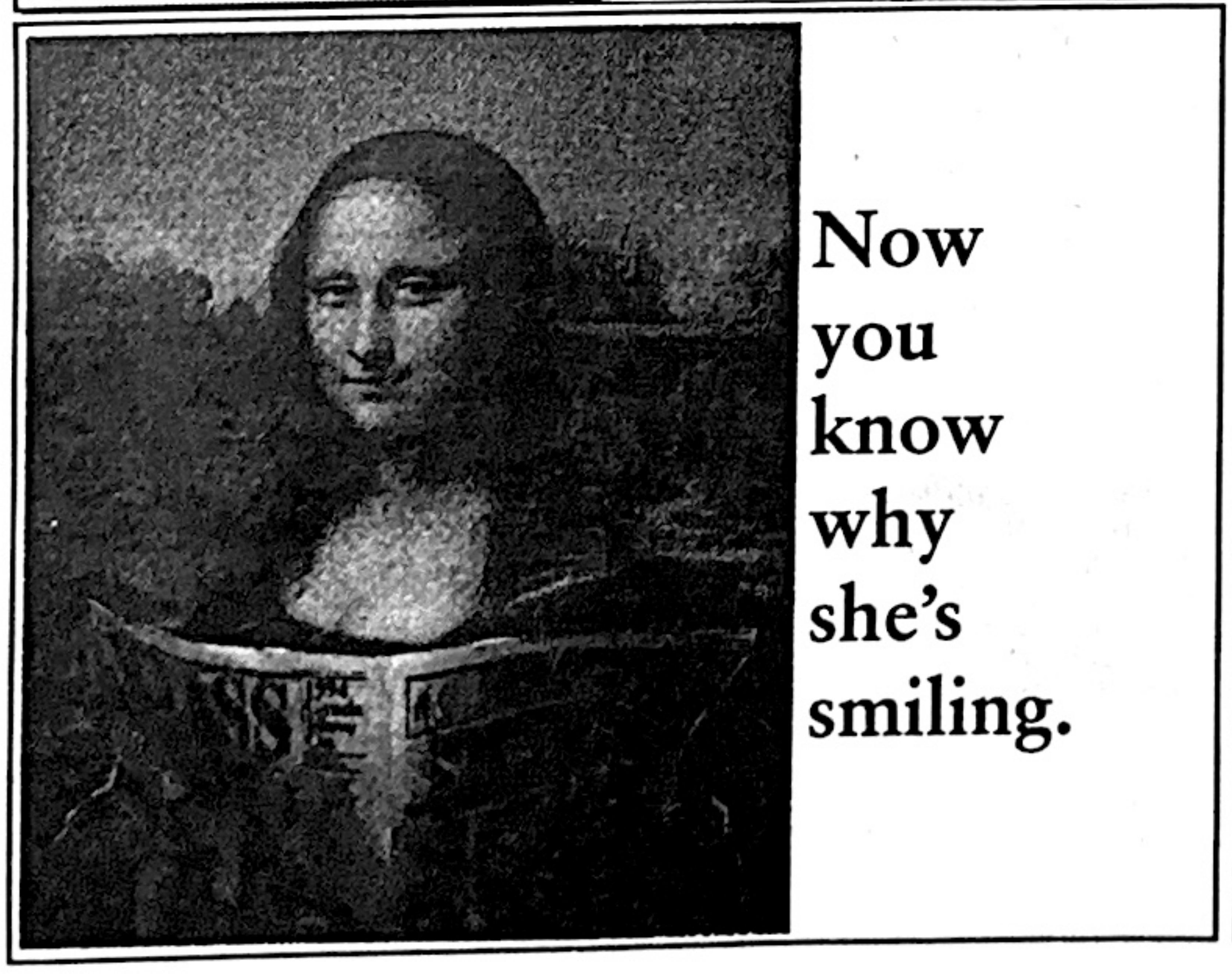
"The pressure is on next year's team to live up to this team's accomplishments," Fuller said.

Aside from the 10-0 regular season, some raiders also received personal recognition.

Senior Courtney Ledyard was named as the–LEL's most valuable player, and was awarded the prestigious Touchdown Club Award.

Sedmak was named LEL coach of the year

In addition to this many players recieved all–LEL status. Kalafatis was named all–LEL offensive tackle; senior Jay Munyasa was named all–LEL offensive guard; Ledyard was awarded all–LEL at tight end; Green and senior Brian Sowell were named all–LEL wide receivers; seniors Rayshon Bacote and Ron MacCannon were named all–LEL running backs; junior Max Axler was named all–LEL kicker/punter; seniors Mike Gantous and Derrick Henderson were named all–LEL at defensive line; senior Mark Harris was named an all–LEL defensive back; and senior Ivory Joe Hunter and junior David Pitman were named all–LEL line backers.



Shaker Heights Youth Center

Shaker Heights Youth Center

Do you need someone to talk to about your life?
Are you worried about a friend of family member?
Are you feeling depressed, stressed or upset?
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School Office - Room 227
Agency Offices: 3445 Warrensville Center Road
752-9292

SPORTS BRIEFS

Swimmers make waves heading to undefeated year

The men's and women's swim teams have enjoyed success in the past few seasons, but they are both expecting much more during the '94-'95 season.

The women's team has won the LEL championship eight years in a row while amassing a 27-0 record, while the men's team has won the LEL for four years in a row with a 23-0 record. Regardless, they are both expecting an even greater performance this year.

The women's team has been helped by their 200 medley relay team which is ranked 17th in the nation, and received all–American honors last year. The relay consists of senior Erin Yates and juniors Kelly Scott, Jane Calfee and Erin McCourt.

"[Being named all-American] was quite an honor, and it was nice to get recognition for all the work we had done," Yates said.

The team's 200 yard freestyle relay is in the top 45 in the nation, receiving honorable mention in the all-American competition. While the relay lost Roberta Challener to graduation , coach Ernest Welsch is confident that he has talented swimmers to fill in.

The men's team looks to build on their strong past. The team is headed by last year's state qualifiers senior David Moore and juniors Dan Goldberg, Chris Hill and Andrew Keay. Welsch said the team should be among the top 10 in the state. Other contributing members are Matt Keay, Brian Moore, Chris Taylor and Bryan Wamsley.

Both teams are looking forward to what they hope will, and expect to be, their best season.

"Without question, this will be the best season ever for both boys and girls," Welsch said, "We are expecting many more all-American swimmers this year."

–Shawn Flowers

Ice hockey team skates toward state championship after one year absence

BY LEIGH STEVENS
Staff Reporter

Another season of hockey has begun and both the players and fans are excited.

The players have a positive outlook.

"We have a veteran coach that has a lot of coaching experience, and our first line can match any other first line in the state. That's our edge," senior Brad Forward said.

Coach Michael Bartley is also excited about the season.

" I think we will be a very competitive team. We have a lot of returning players with experience, and we have some new freshmen that will help us out," Bartley said.

> ***We have a lot of talent. We have played together through the years, so we know each other's style. We are explosive, and if everything clicks, we have a chance to be great this year,"***
>
> ***–senior Cullin O'Brien***

Bartley said that of the 22 team members, 13 were on the team last year.

Leading the team on the starting line are senior captain Cullin O'Brien, Forward, juniors Mike O'Loughlin, Ben Simon and Matt Danish, and sophomore Ben Friedell.

It has been just two years since the team captured the state championship and the players are eager to return.

"We have a lot of talent, and as long as we pull together as a unit we will be successful," Friedell said.

O'Loughlin and junior David Forker agree.

"We are going to win states," they both said.

In order for the players to reach their goal of winning the state championship, the team worked hard during the off season. The players lift weights and run during the off season to stay in shape, according to Bartley.

Drug testing, however, is not something that the players went through, despite rumors of the contrary.

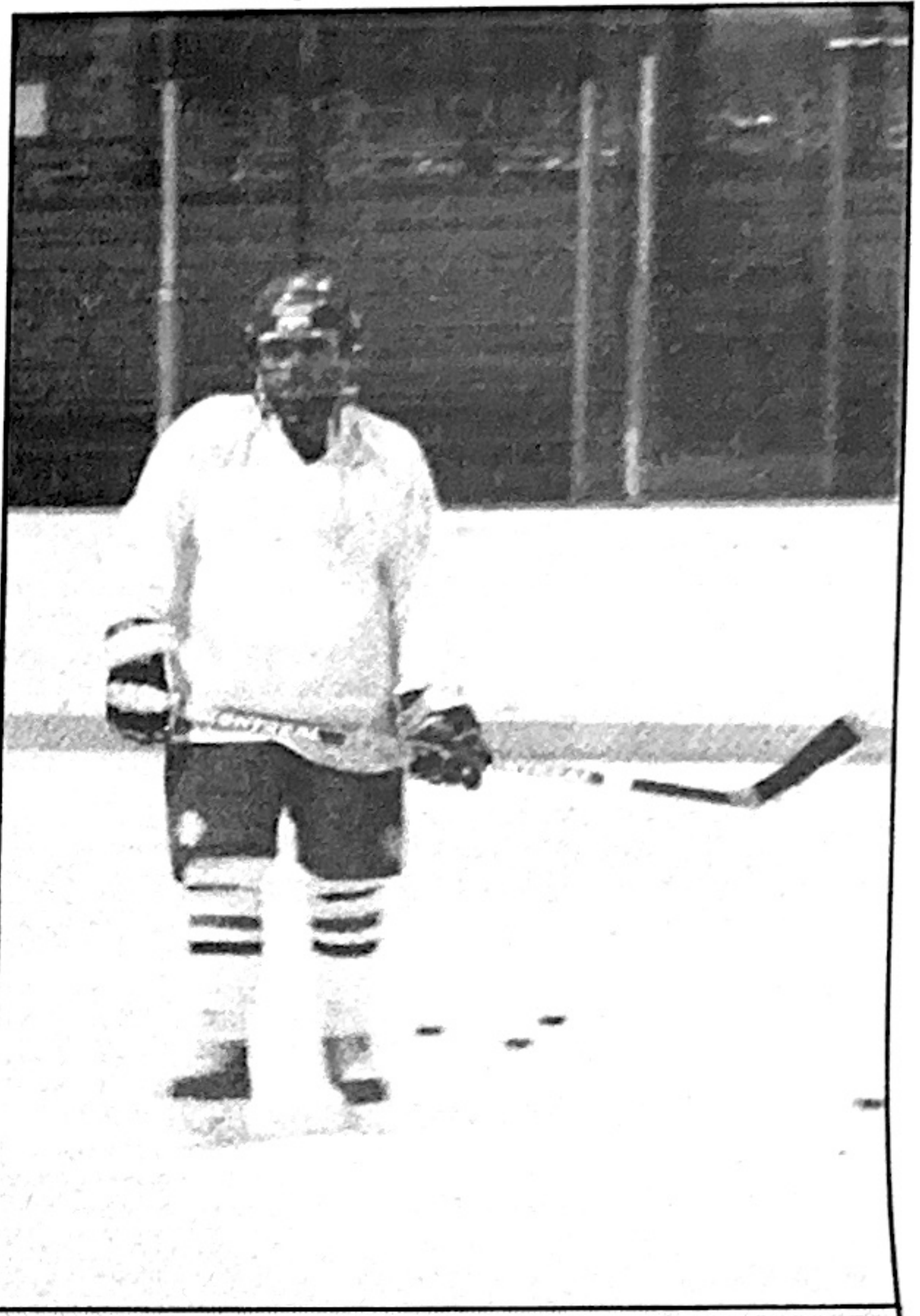
"Drug testing was never a thought and it will never happen," Bartley said. "I don't think you could do [drug testing] in a setting like the high school. I understand drugs may be around, but you are going to run into this problem everywhere. Hopefully the stronger athletic code will discourage the use of drugs. I can't believe that anyone would jeopardize their chances of playing for drugs."

Players feel they should be able to compete successfully this season.

"We have a lot of talent," O'Brien said. "We have played together through the years, so we know each other's style. We are explosive and if everything clicks, we have a chance to be great this year."

The players are not the only ones excited about the new season. For some students, the games provide excellent entertainment.

"I am excited for the season to start," junior fan Jay Landau said. "I enjoy going to the Thornton Park on Friday nights. The games are fun and it gives you something to do."



HE SHOOTS! HE SCORES! THE CROWD GOES WILD! A Raider player gets ready to practice. The hockey team hopes to be a part of the state tournament this year.

Shakerite photo by Larry Latson

Freezing yet fun: not even snow can ruin camping

BY STEVE KRESNYE
Staff Reporter

RECREATIONAL SPORTS

As the dead of winter fast approaches, many people plan on staying inside and staying as warm as possible. Others, although they may be considered a strange bunch, plan on spending every free moment out in the cold. Who would enjoy being wet, shivering, and being separated from extremely cold temperatures by only a thin tent? Winter campers, of course.

There are differences between summer and winter camping. In summer camping, the ideal clothing is light and comfortable, while in winter, the focus is on warmth. Because winter camping clothing is designed to keep the camper safe from extreme cold, it is often bulky and uncomfortable to walk in. With ever-present threats such as frostbite, hypothermia, and pneumonia, warmth is a definite key to a successful and enjoyable winter camping trip.

"The first time I went camping was rather extreme for a beginner. I was ignorant as how to dress and ended up spending three days in numb solitude," former student Matt Breuer said.

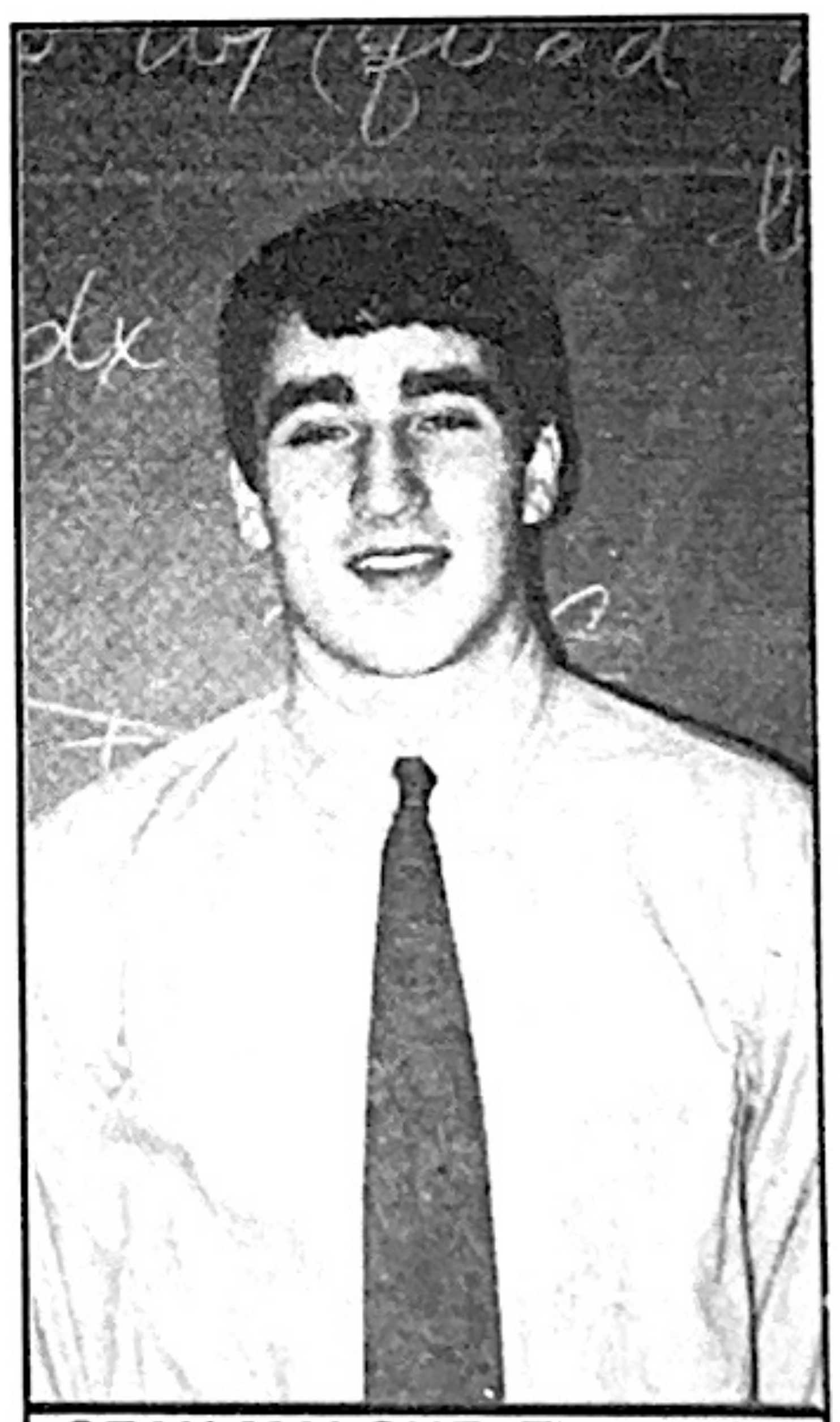
In winter the danger of injury while camping is increased. Simple problems such as cracked hands and chapped lips, and major problems such as sprains and fractures can pose problems.

"I was camping several years ago in Vermont during the winter when I slipped on a mossy rock and sprained my ankle. Fortunately the group I was with was equipped with a first aid kit. Otherwise I may may have have been disabled for a while," Brian Shaw, a senior at the Phelps school in Pennsylvania said.

The most important thing to know about winter camping is that is important to be prepared for any situation that may arise.

A local place to purchase camping supplies is Newman–Adler, which is also a good place to find knowledgeable people who can help to make your first time more comfortable and enjoyable. Stay warm, and have fun.

Raiders of the Month



SEAN MALONE. The senior starting quarterback was instrumental in leading the football team to the state playoffs. He also excels in basketball and baseball in the other seasons.

Shakerite photo by Ben Lind

GILL GRIM. Named to the Plain Dealer All-Star team for her tough field hockey play, she scored the only goal for the Raiders in their state final game against Cincinnati Indian Hills.

Shakerite photo by Laura Kushnick

Men's basketball hoops way to top

BY NED SACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Champions of the Lake Erie League Erie Division a year ago, the men's basketball team began their season with visions of back to back titles.

The competition for slots on the team this year has driven the players to work harder at their game by going to summer basketball camps and playing at open gym.

The championship team of last year was led to its 7-9 record by all LEL junior shooting guard Jermaine Kimbrough and senior point guard Rashaan Poole.

"I think we have some experience and we have some quickness," coach Robert Wonson said on the strengths of the team. "Whether or not we can rebound will determine how good we are."

Wonson said that one of the weaknesses of the team last year was in the leadership. He is looking for returning seniors Sean Malone, Rashaan Poole and Preston Reaze to step up and provide that leadership.

"We will need help [and leadership] from the other seniors," the small forward Malone said.

Other players that were ineligible last year aspire to help the team this year. Due to grades 6'3" senior Kamau Nunn and junior center/power forward Josh McHamm could not play last year.

"I'll be a big part of the team this year," a confident McHamm said.

Malone said the team has some talented juniors like Dejuan Goodwin and Michael Sims who should help the team.

Although the team lost Marcus Hall and Damon Stringer, two all-stars from last year, Wonson does not think that depth will be a problem for the team.

Wonson is expecting help inside from 6'6" foreign exchange student Andrej Pur of Slovenia. Other players expected to help inside are seniors Courtney Ledyard and junior Aaron Paine. These players should help to replace Hall, who was the starting center, Wonson said.

Wonson said he was cautiously optimistic about the team's chances to repeat as LEL Erie Division champions, saying that he thinks they have the talent, but they need more leadership and better rebounding.

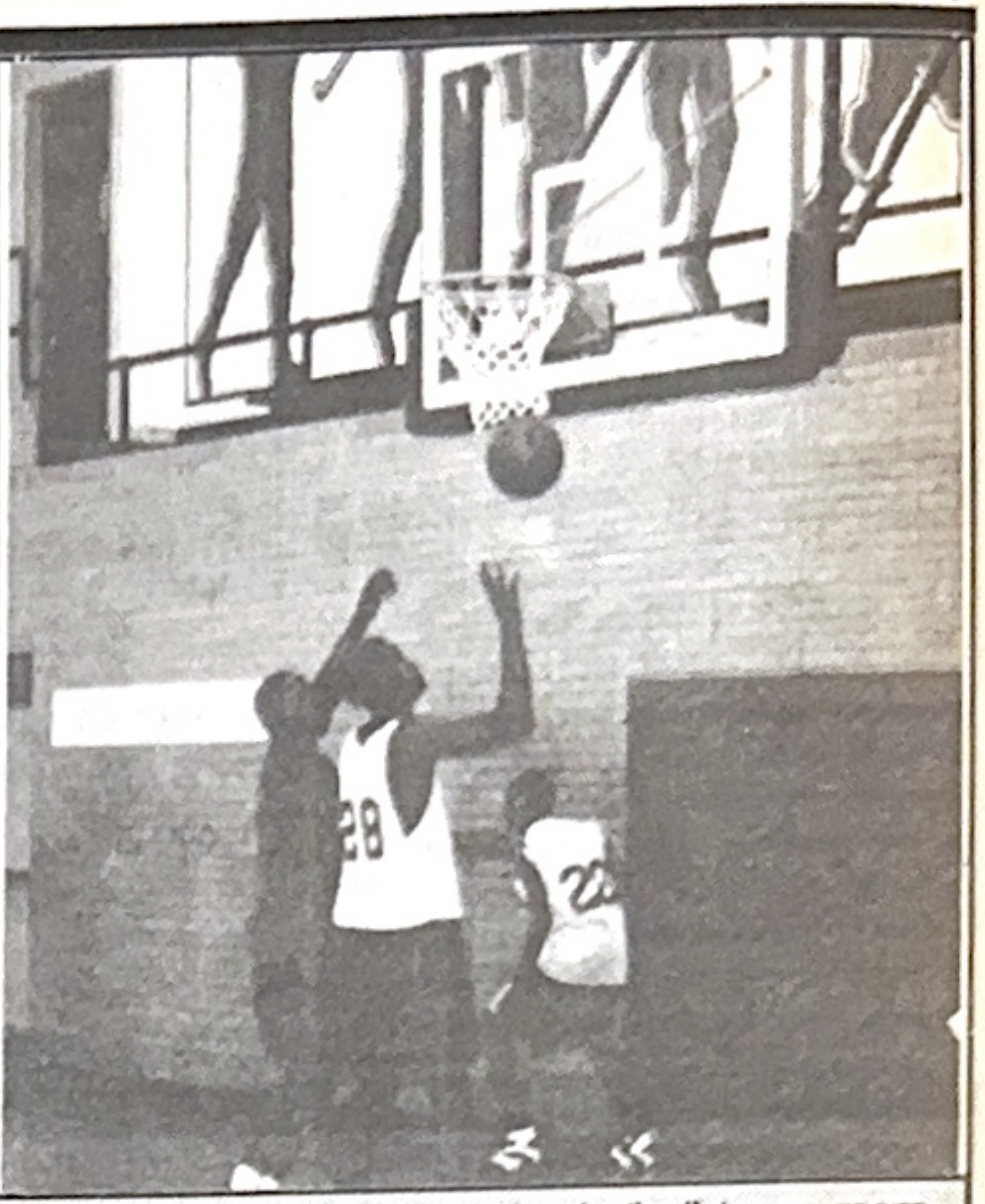
Wonson said the team is looking forward to greater school spirit due to the football team's success.

"I don't think it could do anything but help," Wonson said.

Up against tough competitors, Wonson said that all of the teams in the LEL division are good, but the toughest teams will be Mentor and Cleveland Heights.

"Cleveland Heights is probably the most talented high school basketball team in Northeastern Ohio," Wonson said.

The team hopes to build on the momentum of last year's LEL championship, and take advantage of more experienced juniors like Kimbrough and Goodwin returning this year.



GET THE BALL! Junior basketball team members Josh Perkins-McHamm and Aaron Payne battle for a rebound. The team is off to an undefeated start this year.

Shakerite photo by Larry Latson

RED RAIDER WRAP-UP

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RECORD: 3-0
LEL RECORD: 0-0
JV RECORD: 3-0
9TH RECORD: 1-1

–In the early season, junior Jermaine Kimbrough leads the team in scoring and has been named *Plain Dealer* player of the week. Other top players are senior Courtney Ledyard and junior Michael Sims.

–The next game is tomorrow at home against Valley Forge.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RECORD: 3-1
LEL RECORD: 2-0

–Seniors Krysten Dean and Aisha Lewis lead the team.

–The next game is tomorrow at home against Valley Forge.

WRESTLING

RECORD: 4-1
LEL RECORD: 0-0

–Senior Marc Harris and junior Korey Sharpley lead the team.
–The Richmond Heights tournament is tomorrow.

ICE HOCKEY

RECORD: 5-2-1
GCHL RECORD: 3-0

–The team, trying to win the state championships as they did two years ago, is off to a strong start. Leading the team are seniors Cullin O'Brien and Brad Forward and juniors Ben Simon, Michael O'loughlin and Nick Agopian.

–Home games, which always have a good attendance, are at Thornton Park. The Thornton Park tournament runs tonight through Sunday.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

RECORD: 3-0
LEL RECORD: 1-0

–The team is led by juniors Jane Calfee and Kelly Scott.
–The next meet is tomorrow at Normandy.

MEN'S SWIMMING

RECORD: 3-0
LEL RECORD: 1-0

–The team is led by senior David Moore and Maro Inoka.
–The next meet is tomorrow at home against Normandy.

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